

7 Dec

C A S E S

IN THE

ACUTE RHEUMATISM

AND THE

G O U T;

WITH

CURSORY REMARKS,

AND THE

METHOD OF TREATMENT.

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By THOMAS DAWSON, M.D.

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*Cum esse oportet, manus non habeo; oportet progredi, non sunt  
mibi pedes; oportet dolere, tum & pedes mibi sunt & manus.*

SUETON.

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THE FIFTH EDITION,  
WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.

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MVSEVM  
BRITAN  
NICVM

T O  
S A M U E L K A Y, M. D.  
O F M A N C H E S T E R:

D E A R S I R,

**H**OW much soever I value, and should think myself honoured, by the approbation of a Person of acknowledged merit, and long experience in the Medical profession, I seek not a pretence to that honour in the inscription of this Work. After the favourable reception which, in former impressions, it has met with from the *Public*, I cannot be solicitous to procure it any *private* patronage.

To you, Sir, it is presented *solely* in testimony of my regard to your merit as a Physician, my e-

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steem

steem of your character as a Man, and a Christian, and in grateful acknowledgement of the obligations which a friendly and humane disposition, in the exercise of your profession, has conferred on myself and family.

May you be rewarded, Sir, in the remnant of your days, with the Blessing of that Health, which you have ever wished, and assiduously studied, to procure for others; and, when Life shall be no longer a Blessing, with that peaceful and quiet termination, which is most surely prefigured by an uniformly virtuous and peaceful deportment through life,

I am, Sir,

Your faithful and most obedient

Humble Servant,

HACKNEY,  
Jan. 1, 1781.

T. DAWSON.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**HE reception, which the publication of the following Cases, &c. hath met with, is, to the Author, a pleasing proof, that it hath been considered in the extensive view, he wished it. His Cases in the Gout were, in some later impressions, brought down, just as they arose, and without any selection, to September 1774. To add to them would be unnecessary. They have abundantly justified his sentiments and his practice.

With respect to the *enlarged* dose of the Medicine, particularly recommended in this Tract; he wishes not to be understood, to having *fixed* it, as if it was *always* necessary to be given in so large a quantity, in order to its operating with any effect. Far otherwise. In more weak and delicate temperaments, beneficial and



good effects may result from it, when given in one half, or even one third of the quantity only.

But, the most material thing, and what the Author has most anxiously pressed upon the Reader, is, a sedulous attention to the proper time *When*, and manner *How* this medicine is to be given, without which, the most efficacious remedies will soon fall into discredit.

Next to this, the Author must request his readers to observe ; That, when he speaks of *Offending matter*, *Gouty matter*, *humour*, &c. he is never to be understood as speaking of the *Cause* of the Gout or Rheumatism, but of the *Effect* produced by, or Symptoms attendant on those disorders. — Sir Isaac Newton has a similar caution, by which the Author would illustrate his meaning, respecting the use of the word *Gravitation*. This, he was aware, might be construed into a *Principle*, or *Cause* inherent in Matter, which might much mislead (and, indeed, notwithstanding his express caution against being so understood, has misled) his readers. But  
words

words of some kind must be made use of. And while we are ignorant (and ignorant we certainly are) of the *Cause*, he thinks it best, to use the language of the ancient *Physicians*.

He hopes no Apology will be necessary for any repetition of sentiment which may now and then occur: presuming, that the Physician of long experience will scarcely peruse the whole, of what is now offered to the Public. And to the Noviciate in medicine, it seems altogether needless to apologize for this; judging, that it is hardly possible to set the same object, if an important one, too frequently before his view, or in too many lights.

The Author would only add farther, that he hath not omitted to take some notice of every Writer, of any consequence, on the following subjects, who hath appeared since the first publication of this Tract, as well as of several others who have gone before him. Should this answer no other purpose, it may, at least, lay the foundation of an HISTORICAL ACCOUNT of the several Writers on the Gout and Rheumatism; whence it  
will

will appear at one view, and in a satisfactory manner, *What*, or whether *Any*, improvements have been of late made on these subjects; it being much more common to read of, than to find, any real *improvements* in Medicine. But the task, however necessary on these, as well as on other subjects, he willingly resigns to those who may have more leisure, or Inclination for Writing.

Lord BACON advises, "To revive the  
" Hippocratic method of composing nar-  
" ratives of particular Cases, in which the  
" nature of the disease, the manner of  
" treating it, and the consequences, are  
" to be specified : to attempt the cure of  
" those diseases, which, have been too  
" boldly pronounced incurable : and, last-  
" ly, to extend our inquiries after the  
" powers of particular medicines in the  
" cure of particular diseases."

" It was by the method of transmitting  
" Cases and Cures, that Physic first began  
" to be formed into a science; by the  
" same it must be improved and brought,  
" if possible, to perfection."

TEMPLEMAN.



# C O N T E N T S.

**C**ASES, with Remarks, &c. from Page 1,  
to 152.

**R**EFLECTIONS, from Page 153, to 171.

**A**DDITIONAL CASES, with Remarks, &c.  
from Page 172, to 227.

**A P P E N D I X.**

**No. I.**

**A Translation of Mr. Emerigon's three  
Letters on the Gout, with Remarks.**

**No. II.**

**An Extract from Dr. Clephane's Inquiry  
into the Origin of Portland's Powder,  
with Remarks.**

**No. III.**

**A Siberian Plant recommended in the  
Gout.**

**No. IV.**

**Dr. Panton's Account of the Treatment of  
the Gout in the West Indies.**

C A S E S

IN THE

ACUTE RHEUMATISM

AND THE

GOUT, &c.

**T**HERE is no occasion to make any apology, for laying a few Cases of my practice before the Public.—The consequence, I trust, will be this—either, that I myself shall receive some improvement from the reasons and objections of others, (if any be disposed to object) or—that such of them, who can read without prejudice, will be induced to follow a like method of practice, when

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similar

similar (a) cases shall occur, which hath been attended with such evident advantage in my

(a) Nothing facilitates the progress of medical knowledge more, than an unprejudiced attention to such mode of practice as is recommended from experience in particular and decisive Cases. But the advantage to the profession will not be complete without adding to this attention, a free and liberal communication of any remarks which may be made by the practitioner who hath been induced to follow the method recommended.

Dr. Duncan in a late publication, entitled, *Medical Cases and Observations*, says, "This remedy, [Tinctura Guaiacina Volatilis] since I read Dr. Dawson's Cases, I have often employed, and sometimes, I think it hath been of very considerable advantage."—Doth the Doctor mean to insinuate here, that he only sometimes found it of very considerable advantage?—If so, how shall we account for his being induced often to employ it?—Here I will flatter myself, that the Doctor would not have often employed it, had he not often found it of advantage.—And I must also add my suspicions that, where the Doctor apprehended its failure, it was employed in Cases not similar. For "in recent Rheumatic Cases, says he, I have sometimes been suspicious that it had rather a bad effect as [than] otherwise,"—Cases, in which I do not recollect ever to have recommended it. However this be, it was in the Doctor's power to have effectually prevented any suspicion of this nature, by communicating and specifying the *Instances* of its failure. As the stricture

my hands, for a considerable length of time.

It is a stale artifice of illiberal and ungenerous minds, to oppose, with great vehemence, any remarkable deviation from the common road of practice. But the candid and ingenuous will ever examine for themselves, be disposed to suspend their judgments, readily submitting every new experiment, not obviously hazardous, to the decisive test of fact and experience.

Permit me here to assert, by way of preface, in common with other medical writers, that the health and happiness of mankind are much concerned in a right and judicious practice: to urge also the same plea with them, that this is the principal motive for laying before the Public a few facts and observations, desiring just the same allowance of credit, on this head,

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which

ture stands, drawn up in such a general and vague manner, it is not possible to avail oneself of it. It leads only to doubt and uncertainty, and, (notwithstanding the Doctor's repeated acknowledgment of its "long use with good effect") is in reality prejudicing the reputation of the medicine.



which is usually given to others, and no more.

Let me farther apprise the reader, what he is to expect—No formal or elaborate treatise, protracted to an unnecessary length, decked out with a variety of uncertain theories(b), or blind conjectures, that endemic

(b) Dr. HARDY, in a late Treatise on the *Poitou and Devonshire Cholic*, with *Remarks on the Causes of the Gout*, presumes, “that the regular prevalence of the latter  
 “cannot be so rationally attributed to any thing as, the  
 “drinking wines corrected, rather adulterated, by the  
 “admixture of some noxious mineral substances, that a  
 “course of experiments on convicts, by furnishing them  
 “with such wines, &c. would demonstrate, he is fully  
 “persuaded, that the *primary* causes of the Gout are  
 “infinitely less complex than they have hitherto been  
 “supposed, and that, had a proper attention been paid  
 “to this circumstance by our predecessors, this formidable and painful disease would have been many ages  
 “since almost annihilated.”

His opponent, Dr. RIOLLAY, asserts on the other hand, and with some confidence, “that all attempts to  
 “reduce the origin of the Gout to one *single, simple,*  
 “*extraneous* cause, have proved unsuccessful. That  
 “the variety and contrariety of appearances in this  
 “disorder, cannot be reconciled to one simple primary  
 “cause. But must be ascribed to an Atonia, a debilitated state of the nervous system. Not to *weak,*  
 “says

endemic disease in medical writings. I mean only to offer a few plain Cases of the latest date, with, as was hinted before, some few observations, in that frequent and excruciating disease, commonly called an *acute Rheumatism*, and the Gout.

Having thus bespoken the attention of the reader, I proceed immediately to the Cases themselves; the Remarks and Observations upon which shall either follow each Case, or be added at the conclusion of the whole, as may best convey my intention and reasoning.

“ says the Doctor, but *weakened* nerves, where the  
 “ proper adjustment is destroyed; and when it cannot  
 “ be accounted for by any other cause, *usually produc-*  
 “ *tive* of the disorder, it is to be ascribed to some  
 “ original dibility in the nervous system, some mal-  
 “ conformation or inequality of adjustment of the  
 “ master power to the other parts of the body.”—That  
 is, in short, to this thing or that thing—to some thing or  
 to some thing else.—But whatever uncertainty at present  
 attends the respective theories of both these writers, it  
 is to be hoped, the Public will at length profit by their  
 labours, being promised by the one, on a future occa-  
 sion, a more *safe* and *successful*; and by the other, the  
*wisest* and most *rational* method of cure.

## C A S E I.

MARY Wright, of Stoke-Newington, of a sanguineous, and healthy complexion, aged 19, was, on the 14th of August 1772, suddenly seized with a pungent, throbbing pain in her left ankle, which quickly afterwards became red, and swelled. She herself, and her neighbours attributed this at first to a strain; for the removal of which, liniments, &c. were applied, but without effect. Her pain sensibly encreased by the warmth of the bed; and, on the third day from the attack, she became manifestly feverish; observing, at the same time, that her fever, her sweats, as well as the acuteness of the pain, were greatly augmented during the night. The anguish, before this time confined to her ankle only, was now become universal. The joints of her legs and arms were remarkably swelled and inflamed; and her fever, thirst, and restlessness,

lowness, seemed daily to encrease. Upon this she called for assistance; and, as well as I could guess, both from its taste and its effects, (always occasioning a sense of coldness at her stomach) a single saline mixture, with the addition of nitre, was all that had been directed for her.

I was sent for on the 27th, a fortnight from the commencement of the complaint, and found her in the state above described. Her tongue was white, but moist, her pulse quick, but rather weak. She was withall very costive. There was no delirium; nor had there been the least tendency to it.

I ordered her to be bled immediately, and half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in two ounces and a half of common water, to be taken at night, and repeated early in the morning. Both the draughts were taken without any difficulty; and in the evening of the 28th, I found her sitting up; her pains and fever having intirely ceased. The blood was extremely fizy and viscid.

The medicine gave her a few motions,



and produced a critical discharge, both by perspiration and urine.

Nothing seemed farther necessary, nor was any thing farther done, than barely directing a little Elix. Paregor. to allay the ruffle, and to prevent the looseness going too far. I neither followed it with the bark, nor directed the cold bath: one or other of which I have usually directed, and sometimes both, to prevent a return of the disorder.

Happily for the patient, she stood in need of neither, but hath continued perfectly well ever since.

### REMARKS.

**L**ET me here request the reader to reflect, whether, in the whole course of practice, there can possibly be a more immediate connection betwixt the operation  
of

of the medicine, as a cause, and the removal of the disorder, as its effect, than in the Case here exhibited. The relief was speedy, the recovery perfect. No Case in practice can be less ambiguous. This once admitted, it is most apparent, that a disorder, which is often very tedious, hath been vastly shortened; a great deal of exquisite pain and suffering cut off, much blood-letting prevented, a numerous far-rago of clysters, blisters, nitrous, saline, and attenuating medicines superseded; and, what is no immaterial consideration to that industrious class of mankind, most subject to this complaint, a vast expence lessened, and a long detention from business prevented. And if a more certain, or an abbreviated crisis of this disorder may be hoped for, the aggregate advantage to the community, from such a treatment becoming general, must be too high for estimation.

For let it be observed, that this complaint is peculiarly prevalent in Great Britain, owing, perhaps, to the temperature of our climate, our insular situation, the  
damps

damps and moisture to which we are subject, the sudden transitions from heat to cold, and *vice versa*, more especially in autumn, and the succeeding months, till very late in the spring. It also attacks persons of the most active and happy constitutions; the husbandman, the gardener, the soldier, &c. the inferior indeed, but not the least useful class of mankind.

Now, what forbids us to hope for the like happy termination of this tedious disorder, which took place, both so speedily and so effectually, in the case above-mentioned; and which, though simple and uncomplicated, was as alarming, and the pain as excruciating, as any I had ever seen? There can surely be no absurdity in supposing similar causes will produce similar effects. Doth not humanity then call upon us, success encourage, and reason approve and urge, farther trials in every like instance.

Great care, however, must be taken, that the circumstances be really similar, when we do make use of the same treatment.

ment. It would be the height of presumption and temerity, because bleeding, purging, cooling, sudorific, incrassating, or attenuating medicines are, in some particular fevers, and in certain periods of a fever, very useful—to apply these rashly, without such an attentive discrimination of circumstances, as may best direct us to the *When* and *How*, they are respectively necessary.

It is almost needless to observe, that fevers have their respective differences, their respective rise and progress, declination and crisis. In all of them, different stages require a different kind of treatment; and what might be proper practice in the commencement, may be much otherwise in the advance of the disorder, and so *vice versa*.

This general observation is but superficially touched, in order to introduce a retrospect upon the given Case with more advantage.

The patient had been grievously afflicted with this disorder for a fortnight. After an attentive inspection of the Case, she was bled



bled in the evening, the Guaiacum medicine given soon afterwards, repeated the next morning, and in the evening of the same day, she was totally freed from the fever, and every attendant complaint. In short, her health was restored without any farther measures being used, or any return of her disorder. Will this warrant us to do the same, at all times, and in every stage of the disease, without any consideration of circumstances? No, surely! This would be a most hasty and imperfect conclusion indeed, and might lead to very dangerous errors in practice. A fortnight had elapsed before the above measures were taken for her relief. Nature had, all this time, been at work in her own mysterious laboratory. A fever was visibly her instrument. She had not been disturbed in her operations either by bleeding, by clysters, or purgatives. A saline or nitrous mixture, such it appeared to me, was all that had been given. Great costiveness prevailed, and the fever, tho' more inert, yet still retained a considerable degree of activity. Nature also, it  
is

is possible, had been discharging some of the offending matter, so to speak, through the inflamed and tumefied joints, by an insensible, whilst the intervening sweats were doing the same, by a more sensible perspiration. It seemed by a due concoction, if I may use an ancient phrase, fully prepared to pass through the innumerable and invisible outlets, which cover the surface of the body, as well as down the great excretory canal, through the urinary passages, and the orifice of the vein. The medicine being given in this seasonable moment, when nature was struggling in her last finishing operation, the cure became perfect and compleat.

The time *When* this was done, is so material a circumstance, that it can by no means be overlooked, if we would pursue a similar treatment. Had the same measures been directed on the second, third, or fourth day from the commencement of the disorder, it is probable, that they would have been attended with no such fortunate event, but perhaps quite the contrary. The state of the Case then, would  
have

have been no longer the same; and therefore the issue might have been very different, though the prescribed methods were the same. We might have been doing harm instead of good, and obstructing nature too much, in her wise and kind endeavours to serve us. Both the fever and the costiveness might have been wanted here, for the present, to forward and execute her intentions, and to put a more speedy and effectual termination to the disorder.

I had no reason, perhaps, to lament, that the usual methods had not been pursued in the more early stage of the disease. This was an advantage, at least it appeared so to me, on a careful review of the case. From hence I was induced to conclude, that even in this ardent and inflammatory fever, we may be too hasty and precipitate, in pursuing the common practice of early bleeding, and other evacuations; and may carry them much too far. Would it not be more adviseable to wait a little, to do nothing without an urgent necessity, except in the dietetic way, or only something

thing to amuse the patient, and guard against any great irregularities? If his sufferings should be rather greater for a few days (tho' I am not certain that would be the case) yet he is likely to be rewarded, by a more speedy release from them, and a more perfect recovery of his health.

Add to this consideration, that we have greater compass allowed us in the Rheumatic fever, than in many others, where the same cautious proceeding is advisable: because this is not, in general, a disorder either of such mortal danger, such rapid progress, or such speedy issue, in respect to life or death, as to allow no time to look about us. It affords us commonly sufficient leisure to make cool observations on its progress, its *ακμή* or state, its declination and variations, and also on the tumefied (c) parts, *viz.* whether red and florid, moist or dry, <sup>h</sup>hard or soft,

(c) Interest, sine tumore is fit, an tumor cum calore, an tumor etiam jam obcaluerit. Nam, si tumor nullus, est, calidis fomentis opus est, &c. Si vero tumor calorque est, utiliora sunt refrigerantia. *Celsus.*

erratic



erratic or stationary, or in a subsiding state.

It would be unpardonable, when we have several indicative circumstances presented to us, in the acute Rheumatism, not to pay the strictest attention to them. For by repeated observations, conducted with proper accuracy and minuteness, in a variety of cases compared with each other, we may possibly hit upon that critical moment, that seasonable point of time, when nature invites, and we are ready to join forces in the intire expulsion of the malady from all quarters of the body, and to perform a radical and permanent cure; without any of those terrible remnants of an imperfect crisis, occasioned either by a premature attempt to assist nature, or by one too long delayed.

This great *desideratum* is worthy of an attentive investigation; and we should think ourselves very happy, to arrive at more certainty about it. In the mean time, it is best not to be impertinently officious, intruding with our ignorance upon the much wiser designs of nature to  
serve

serve us, but to be in constant waiting to obey her orders expeditiously, whenever she shall point at a crisis, and throw out fair and manifest signals for assistance. For nature will, and must have things in her own way; and by our impatience to have matters dispatched out of hand, and by endeavours rudely to force her, we may frustrate both her intentions, and our own wishes, and be left in the midst of that distress and affliction, to which no human skill can prescribe either certain remedies or certain bounds.

Such, as well as I can recollect, were some of the ideas which occurred to me, on reflecting upon the above Case.

The following Case I shall give in the words of the letter sent me, by the gentleman who attended the patient. Mr. Johnson, Surgeon and Apothecary in Walthamstow, at that time an intire stranger to me, was so obliging afterwards,

terwards, as, at my request, to draw it up; and now gives me his permission to publish it, though written with no such intention.

## C A S E II.

**G**EORGE Turner, a whitesmith, in Marsh-street, Walthamstow, in the 35th year of his age, of a middle stature, strong tense fibre, and good constitution, desired me to attend him, on the third of September last, having been very ill for several days of a Rheumatic disorder of the inflammatory kind.

The case at first appeared to me rather alarming, and attended with some danger of his life as well as his limbs. He had a continual pain in his arms, legs, and thighs, several of his joints swelled and inflamed; and had, at times, very acute pains on the muscles of the thorax, and

mem-

membranes of the sides; his pulse very quick and hard, tongue extremely dry and foul, intense heat and dryness in the skin, accompanied with sickness, nausea, and a violent diarrhæa.

In order to stop the looseness (which seemed to be the principal concern before I was called in) he imprudently drank some quantity of hot Port wine with spices, and made use of several other things, no less improper, with respect to the fever and inflammation of his blood.

I immediately bled him, to the amount of twelve ounces, and found his blood extremely fizy, with no small degree of acrimony. Two or three hours after, I gave him a gentle emetic; and that, with a few doses of rhubarb, &c. soon settled his bowels: after which I put him upon medicines of the cooling and attenuating kind, which considerably lessened the fever, and abated the pain; and he continued better for two days and nights.

The fever then advancing, and the pain increasing, I took away more blood, and



repeated it the next morning, in proportion to the strength and fulness of his pulse, &c. with a view chiefly of subduing the fever, as I found the state of the blood the same as at first, and thereby making way for more efficacious medicines, blisters, &c.

The pain continuing obstinate, and very little abated by all that had been done, I next morning advised calling in a physician; and Dr. Dawson was sent for, who coming soon after, and finding the fever on the decline, ordered a draught for him, to be repeated every morning and evening, with half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of barley water; and, if I found it necessary, to add Tinct. Thebaic. (d) gutt. xij. which I did three times;

(d) Sir JOHN PRINGLE, in his *Observations on the diseases of the army*, says, "SYDENHAM condemns Opium as fixing the disease, and, so far as I have observed, justly;"—and yet the Doctor informs us, "that since the two first editions of his *Observations*, he hath used in the Rheumatism (when there was no fever) Dr. DOVER's Powder; giving for some nights about 20 or 25 grains of it at bed-time, with  
plenty

times, on account of a great tendency to a diarrhæa, that it might not run off by stool.

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Before

“ plenty of some warm diluting liquor, and laying the  
 “ patient in *blankets*.”—Now, waving every other  
 consideration, Opium being a principal ingredient in  
 Dr. DOVER’s Powder, a question naturally arises here  
 —Doth Opium fix the disease in the acute, and hath it  
 not that tendency in the chronic Rheumatism?—From  
 the Doctor’s continued use of this powder, we are left  
 to suppose that it hath not this effect in the latter case.  
 —Should it be asked again—Do the several ingredients  
 with which Opium is combined in this composition, at  
 all diminish or prevent its usual effects? Let Dr.  
 BROCKLESBY answer to this particular:—“ This”  
 [Powder] which the Doctor justly calls a preposterous  
 ferrago, “ I have sometimes ventured to extend to two  
 “ drams in 24 hours; as I am fully satisfied the stimu-  
 “ lus of Ipecacantha, accompanying six grains, or even  
 “ more Opium in 24 hours, where enormous pain is  
 “ felt, so far prevents its narcotic effects, that very few  
 “ people, who took no more than this quantity, grew  
 “ delirious, or were affected with any considerable  
 “ symptoms of this class, in consequence of it; and if  
 “ any few, by taking sometimes more in quantity,  
 “ were so, the complaint proved only of a few hours  
 “ continuance; for it was carried off by plentiful ablu-  
 “ tions of gruel, or of any thin drinks taken warm and  
 “ frequently.”—Here it is to be regretted, as the deli-  
 rious

Before the Doctor left the room, I took care to inform myself whether he meant  
(as

rious symptoms occasioned by so large a quantity of Opium were thus easily carried off, that this matter was not put to a fairer issue, by giving to some (if this could have been done) Opium only, and Dr. DOVER's powder, containing a like quantity of Opium, to an equal number of other patients under the same circumstances, and in the same space of time. This would have been the most likely way to have known, whether Ipecacoanha doth indeed counteract the narcotic effects of Opium. As the matter is here stated by the Doctor, some persons may be disposed to think that *enormous pain* might prove as great a stimulus, as the Ipecacoanha.

✎ Thus this matter stood in the *second edition* of my Cases. Since that time Sir JOHN PRINGLE hath thought proper to publish another impression of his *Observations*, in which he omits intirely any mention of DOVER's powder, and its accompaniments; "*plenty*" of some warm diluting liquor, and laying the patient "*in blankets.*" For, no one surely needs be told, the great difficulty and the great discernment requisite to pronounce with certainty of the effect of any medicine, where such a variety take place, attended too with such *circumstances* as are of themselves oftentimes sufficient to bring about a cure. It is something surprising therefore, that Dr. PRINGLE should have retained this powder for such a length of time, and in such various editions of his book, and not have aimed at a much greater degree of simplicity in his prescription, the most probable

(as he had directed) to have the whole dose given at once, having never seen so large a

C 4 quantity

ble method of arriving at a knowledge of the real effects of any medicine. “ Scarce any thing (says a “ judicious writer) hath more retarded the improve- “ ment of physick, than mixing things together of a “ different nature; for oftentimes many things are “ confounded together, which, seperately administered, “ might assist the patient, and give credit to the “ physician; whereas mixed, they become useless, one “ destroying the effect of the other.—This affair “ ought to be looked into and regulated, by those who “ have the power, that we may not fall under the lash “ of some future [Satyrist] who, with a little variation, might address himself thus to some physicians:

“ Ye jumble in one mass such costly juices,  
 “ So various in their natures, in their uses,  
 “ That the poor patient, who relies upon you,  
 “ At once is cheated of his health and money.”

This reminds me of the following story. A physician, of ready wit, being once asked, why he crowded such a variety of ingredients into his prescription? answered; To let the *disorder choose* what it *liked best* for itself.

Dr. DOVER's *ancient Physician's Legacy to his Country*, not being in every one's hands, I shall in this place put down the composition of his powder, of the propriety of which the reader will judge for himself.

“ Take opium one ounce, salt petre and tartar “ vitriolated, each four ounces, ipecacoanha one ounce,  
 “ liquorish



quantity given before ; and I now declare it as a fact, that I never, in the whole course of my practice, which is upwards of twenty years, saw any one (e) medicine  
answer

“ liquorish one ounce. Put the salt petre and tar-  
“ tar into a red hot mortar, stirring them with a spoon  
“ till they have done flaming. Then powder them  
“ very fine ; after that slice in your opium ; grind  
“ these to a powder, and then mix the other powders  
“ with these. Dose from forty to sixty or seventy  
“ grains, in a glass of white-wine posset, going to  
“ bed.—Covering up warm, and drinking a quart or  
“ three pints of the posset drink while sweating.”

(e) Sir JOHN PRINGLE supposeth a non-efficiency in the Tinct. Guaiac. Volat. saying, “ The Tincture of  
“ Guaiacum of the Dispensatory contains so little of  
“ the Gum, that we must ascribe most of its virtues  
“ to the Volatile Salt.”—Be it so, that the principal  
virtue of the medicine doth consist in the Volatile Salt,  
yet both the one and the other must, on particular occasions, be ineffectual, given in the usual quantity. And when the Doctor made this observation, it is highly probable, that he proceeded in the customary way of giving the Tincture by drops, or a dram at a time, or little more. This I collect from the Doctor’s manner of giving the Volatile Salts, whether in the acute or chronic Rheumatism ; informing us in one place, “ that to  
“ twenty grains of the Gum, dissolved with the yolk of  
“ an egg, he sometimes adds a few grains of salt of  
“ hartshorn.”

answer one quarter so well, under the like circumstances.

The  
 “hartshorn.” In another, “that he gives twice or  
 “thrice in the day fifty or sixty drops of the spirit of  
 “hartshorn in a draught of water.” In a third, “This  
 “was my practice in the hospital ; but since that time,  
 “having seen great good effects from the Gum Guaiacum  
 “used only as a laxative, I give it in solution  
 “with five grains of Salt of Hartshorn.”

Now I had allowed, after making every deduction, that half an ounce of the Tincture contains at least twenty-five grains of the Gum. Later experiments convince me it contains much more. Every dose then, as I direct the Tincture, conveys a greater proportion of it than what the Doctor himself generally gives ; for twenty grains is his ordinary proportion ; and were the whole of the Gum dissolved by the spirit, every half ounce, if I calculate right, would contain forty grains of the Gum.

✍ The Observation above, which Sir JOHN PRINGLE had made, respecting the “Tincture of Guaiacum of the Dispensatory,” was so far from being just, that since the appearance of this little tract, he hath been induced wholly to omit the hasty reflection which he had passed upon the Tincture, and all that he had advanced in the note above, concerning the volatile part ; fully convinced, it should seem, of the inefficacy of giving either the Gum or the Volatiles in such small and trifling doses, (as in his former practice) telling us, with respect to the  
 Gum,

The first dose greatly relieved him, without being attended with the least ill effect on any account; and after the second, in the morning, I found him in an universal, fine, gentle sweat; his pulse greatly softened, and quite calm; a fine concocted sediment in his urine, and the pains and swellings in a manner gone.—It is to be observed, that though two large blisters (f) were applied to the affected arms,

Gum, instead of twenty, as in his stated Formulary, he now usually gives thirty grains of the Gum; and the Volatiles, it may be supposed, in a like greater proportion. For no mention is now made of giving the Gum with a “few grains of Salt of Hartshorn,” *to keep up a perspiration*; “five grains of Salt of Hartshorn,” &c. &c.—The Doctor, however, still recommends the Guaiacum and the Volatiles, in general terms. But how doth this differ essentially from the “Tincture of Guaiacum of the Dispensatory?”

(f) Dr. LANGRISH agrees with Dr. FREIND, in recommending *vesicatories*, in *ardent acute fevers*, provided they are applied towards “the *stationary period* of “the fever, when the *solids* begin to flag, and stand in “need of a *stimulus*; or when the natural operations “are insufficient to discharge the morbid matter “through the excretive glandules, without such assist-  
“ances. But, on the contrary, whilst the vital powers  
“are

arms, at the same time the draught was given, the relief he found so soon after, cannot well be attributed to any thing but the latter. The draughts were continued three days, till the pains had perfectly left him, without the Tinct. Thebaic. (g)—

But

“ are too strong, whilst the vessels and fibres are too  
 “ rigid and dry, whilst the blood and lymph are viscous  
 “ and inspissated merely by the intenseness of the heat,  
 “ and whilst all the efforts of nature are sufficiently  
 “ strong, the application of blistering plaisters must  
 “ needs be improper.”

The reader will observe, that this is the only Case wherein blisters were applied, when the breath was not affected; and that the cure does not seem, in this instance, to have been accelerated by them.

“ Blistering, says Dr. CULLEN, may be very effect-  
 “ tual in removing the pain from a particular part;  
 “ but will be of little use, except where the pains are  
 “ much confined to one part.”

(g) ↗ Since the appearance of the Query (at p. 20, note d) relative to the effects of Opium, in each kind of Rheumatism, in the last edition of these Cases, Sir JOHN PRINGLE, instead of confirming SYDENHAM's observation, viz. that Opiates fix the disease in a Rheumatic fever, as being a *just one*, which he had formerly done, now adds, *how justly may be a question*—But take the remainder of the paragraph as Sir JOHN now puts it, for I had thought this was an observation made in the army;  
 “ during



But from making too free, on all accounts,  
(as I frankly told him at that time, and  
forwarned

“ during my practice in the army, relying upon his  
“ authority, I likewise abstained from them in the  
“ Rheumatism, both acute and chronical. But since  
“ that time, being *moved by the testimony of others*, I  
“ have altered my method in that respect ; and in sharp  
“ nocturnal pains, preventing all rest, I have sometimes  
“ successfully given from 20 to 25 drops of *Tinctura*  
“ *Thebaica*, joined to 30 drops of the *Vinum Antimoniale*;  
“ but, in other cases, I have *imagined*, with SYDENHAM,  
“ that it was better to omit all such medicines.” In  
*other Cases!*—What Cases does Sir JOHN mean? Surely  
not, when rest is obtained without them, and when the  
pains are not sharp.—In such Cases, doubtless, Opiates are  
not necessary. When, therefore, Sir JOHN says, it is better  
to omit all such medicines, the question still occurs—Is  
it for the reason assigned by SYDENHAM, “ that Opiates  
“ have a tendency to *fix the disease*,” which observation  
Sir JOHN had formerly confirmed? or is it because they  
would be superfluous when rest is not prevented by the  
pains, or when the pains are not sharp? or for what other  
reason? — “ *Moved*,” saith Sir JOHN, “ *by the testimony*  
“ *of others*.”—May I ask here, By what testimony?  
Was it that of Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE?—Hear  
then what Sir RICHARD saith on this head. “ It is  
“ very certain, that the great pains, and obstinate  
“ wakefulness and inquietudes, require the use of  
“ pacific medicines. Dr. SYDENHAM forbids the use of  
“ Opiates, till about the fifth day; but, in my opinion,  
“ he

forewarned him) and perhaps, from some fresh cold, the pains returned some days after; and, for want of being properly attended

“ he gives no convincing reason for that injunction;  
 “ and the apprehensions he entertains of their exasperating and augmenting the symptoms, if given sooner,  
 “ do not proceed from reason or experience, at least  
 “ are not congruous to mine, who have used them  
 “ from the second day, not only without detriment,  
 “ but with advantage.”

“ In all acute and *vehement pain* (says Dr. CHEYNE).  
 “ *Opium* is the sovereign relief, particularly in the  
 “ *Cholic, Stone, Gout, Rheumatism, &c.* It operates  
 “ by *relaxing* and unbending the fibres, *overstretched*  
 “ and crisped up by *pain*.”

“ Hear farther Dr. TISSOT’s observation: “ The  
 “ pains, [in the Rheumatic fever] are generally most  
 “ severe in the night; whence it hath been usual to  
 “ give composing soporific medicines. This, however,  
 “ has been very erroneous, as Opiates really augment  
 “ the cause of the disease, destroy the efficacy of the  
 “ proper medicines, and even, far from asswaging the  
 “ pains, frequently increase them. Indeed, they agree  
 “ so little in this disease, that even the patient’s natural  
 “ sleep at the invasion of the complaint, is rather to his  
 “ detriment. They feel, the very moment they are  
 “ dropping asleep, such violent jerks, as awaken them  
 “ with great pain; or if they do sleep a few minutes,  
 “ the pains are stronger when they awake.”

Opiates, says Professor CULLEN, except where they  
 are

tended to, continued troublesome for some time.

Walthamstow,

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1773.

R<sup>d</sup>. JOHNSON.

are directed to procure sweat, always prove hurtful in [ every stage of the Rheumatism.

Now, on the whole, let us for a moment imagine to ourselves, that a Tyro in physic should set himself down seriously to read and consider these differing and opposite sentiments, not of different writers only, but of the same writers, at different periods of life, on one and the same subject—How great must be his distraction? and how little instruction or satisfaction would it be possible for him to reap from their labours?—It is highly unfortunate, therefore, that amongst such a variety of professed *Observers*, so much apparent doubt and uncertainty should still prevail, and on a subject too not the most intricate and perplexed.

And farther, what doth all this contrariety of opinion evince, but that physicians have yet to learn either the *Kinds* of paretics most requisite for palliating the symptoms in this disorder, or the *Times* most proper for administering them?—For the natural tendency of Opium is to allay pain; and Guaiacum also is acknowledged to have “great good effects in the Rheumatism:” if then, either the one or the other fail of their proper effects, is it not natural to conclude, that this ariseth from not knowing *How* and *When* they are respectively to be given?

R E M A R K S.

## REMARKS.

**F**idelity in the narration of Cases, joined to an accurate attention, even to very minute circumstances, is indispensably requisite, before we can make a judicious comparison, and be enabled from thence to determine, that they are Cases in point; and so far similar in their capital circumstances, as to justify the same conclusions, and the same treatment.

Let it be farther observed, that there may be some little and circumstantial differences, yet not of so essential a nature, as to affect the sameness, or similarity of the Cases.

Here we have a fever of several days standing, before any assistance was called for.—Instead of costiveness, the usual concomitant of this complaint, a looseness  
was



was prevalent from the beginning, and through a considerable stage of the disease. The blood was (as is usual in Pleurifies and Rheumatisms) buffy and fizy (h). In this gentleman's idea, it was moreover in an acrimonious state. The fever, we find,

(h) “ In the inflammation of the breast, says Dr. TISSOT, and in all other inflammatory diseases, the blood is in a very thick viscid state, and almost immediately on its being drawn, a white tough skin, somewhat like leather, is formed on its top, which most people have seen, and which is called the *pleuritic crust*. It is thought a promising appearance, when at each bleeding it seems less hard, and less thick, than it was at the preceding ones : and this is very generally true, if the sick feels himself, at the same time, sensibly better : but whoever shall attend solely to the appearance of the blood, will find himself often deceived. It will happen, even in the most violent inflammation of the breast, that this *crust* is not formed, which is supposed to be a very unpromising sign. There are also, in this respect, many odd appearances, which arise from the smallest circumstances ; so that we must not regulate the repetitions of our bleeding, solely by this *crust* : and, in general, we must not be over credulous in supposing, that the appearances in the blood, received into the basin, can enable us to determine, with certainty, of its real state in the body.”

after

after abating a little, returned with equal violence. The pain in the limbs remained obstinate, without much abatement. But after the third bleeding, the fever being on the decline, I saw it necessary immediately, before it had quite deserted us, neglecting the less material circumstances, to direct my aim to the capital point, of assisting nature in the absolute expulsion of the distemper.

I considered things as in a state of full ripeness for acting in this manner; and accordingly threw in the medicine, without farther evacuations by the lancet; which happily answered my intentions, by an universal gentle sweat, shewing the crisis, both by a calm, softened pulse, a fine sediment in the urine, and an almost intire cessation of the pain;—tokens these generally admitted as manifesting a perfect crisis.

The same medicine was repeated for three days successively; though it ought to be observed, that the crisis manifested itself, as in the former Case, evidently after the exhibition of the second dose.

D

Now

Now, as the patient had been greatly exhausted by the continuance of the disorder, the repeated bleedings (i), and other discharges,

(i) Sir JOHN PRINGLE, as an apology for his practice, "with regard to repeated bleedings, which were his chief remedy," saith, "It is to be remembered, that my patients were men in the prime of life, and of that class, that is little subject to *arthritic* pains, which may so readily be confounded with the *Rheumatic*."—But, *it is to be remembered also*, that Sir John tells us, "the Rheumatisms which occurred were generally of a milder kind; as its causes could not operate so powerfully on men, whose blood in general was little disposed to inflammation, either by high living, or by a full habit."—Now, if this was generally the case, where, I would ask, was the necessity of such repeated bleedings, or of making this his chief remedy?—Again, Sir JOHN would have it remembered "that his men were in the prime of life, and of that class that is little subject to *arthritic* pains, which may so readily be confounded with the *Rheumatic*."—But what of that?—are we not to remember also, what he tells us in another place, "that in young people, when the Gout is disguised under a *Rheumatic* form, we cannot much err, if we treat the Case as if it were purely *Rheumatic*."—Where is the consistency of this?—and what necessity of being thus reminded, when we are informed in the same paragraph, "that in his private practice, among people whose manner of living dis-

posed

discharges, I directed, (what is omitted in the Case) as well to remedy these inconveniencies, as to prevent a relapse, a strong decoction of the Bark, with the addition of the Cordial Confection, and left him two or three days afterwards quite well, recommending to him farther, to use the cold bath. As to the relapse, which did not continue any great length of time, that is sufficiently accounted for, in the Case itself.

Let us now see, in what essential points these two Cases, and their treatment, do agree, by selecting and separating them from lesser incidental circumstances; which

“ posed them more to attacks of the Gout, than to a  
 “ true Rheumatism; in every ambiguous case, if there  
 “ was fever, I have bled freely, not only once, but a  
 “ second and third time, if the blood was fizy, and the  
 “ patient not too weak [an important circumstance]  
 “ but relieved by the evacuation.”—Now the blood is  
 generally fizy, whether the Case be Gouty or Rheumatic.  
 And whatever propriety there may be in bleeding the  
 patient, so long as he was relieved by the evacuation,  
 certainly the *fizy* appearance of the blood is too fallacious  
 a mark to justify such a practice.— See note h.  
 p. 32. and also note t. p. 74, 75, 76.



we may consider, as only a varied drapery, in the portraiture of one and the same person.—They agree in these respects; the fever was all along strong and vigorous in both; and continued (notwithstanding repeated bleedings in the latter Case) a length of time sufficient to attenuate the offending matter, be that what it will. They agree also in this respect, that, when I was called in, the fever was not without activity; and though, in the latter Case, rather more languid than in the former, yet had it by no means quitted either of the patients. They agree farther in this, that the very day after the exhibition of the medicine, a perfect crisis was formed. Add to this, that the tumified parts, and the appearances of the blood, were the same in both. These I call the capital circumstances.

With regard to the dryness of the skin, in the latter Case, and the diarrhæa, which had continued throughout a great part of the disease, and which might possibly contribute to render the skin dry and parched;  
though

though this circumstance was not wholly disregarded, yet it did not appear of sufficient moment to decline the use of the medicine, while other material considerations strongly indicated its propriety; especially, as it might so easily be restrained, if excessive. Nay, rather, was it not proper, as far as could be done with safety, to conspire with nature, if indeed it was her intention, to carry off part of the morbid matter by the looseness? Be that as it may, the distemper was to be expelled, the fizy disposition of the fluids attenuated, (if indeed that be possible) now that the fever was threatening to leave us, and every thing seemed ready for that kindly *diaphoresis* (k); the

D 3

most

(k) Sir JOHN PRINGLE says, " It is true, that I commonly added the diaphoretic powders, mentioned in the cure of inflammatory fevers in general, but without having any confidence in them; and at no rate with a view to promote any *sensible discharge by the skin*. For though, in my first practice, I attempted, by means of the *Spiritus Minderii*, and other medicines of that nature, to force a sweat, yet I was afterwards

" con-

most usual, and the most happy termination of the acute Rheumatism.

It will here perhaps be said, Besides the other differences already mentioned, how can the Cases be the same, when, in the latter, three bleedings took place, and in the former but one? This answer will be sufficient: That, notwithstanding the intention was, undoubtedly, to subdue the fever by the lancet, a practice this but too common, yet, we find the fever did still continue. The fact was (and this is

“convinced, that this was not the *proper manner* of treating a Rheumatism *with fever*.”——

Dr. BROCKLESBY, on the contrary, in some later Observations on the Rheumatic fever, says, “This quantity, *viz.* half a drachm of Nitre, I repeated every hour, or oftner, as the stomach would bear it; and thereby I have often extended the doses of Nitre to ten drachms, or sometimes to more, throughout every twenty-four hours. Such quantities, in three or four days, seldom failed wonderfully to relieve the patient, and very often to cure him intirely, by the most *plentiful* and *profuse* sweats, which, without any other than the method here recommended, frequently continued without interruption, till near the crisis.”—Who can reconcile these discordant observations of different observers, in one and the same disorder!

prin-

principally to be regarded) that beneficial instrument of nature did not forsake us, but continued its services so long, and so late in the disorder, as to produce the happy effect which it did, and which in its co-operation with the medicine, was expected to be produced.

This was certainly an advantage in the present Case, and is a sufficient answer to the objection.

It is a happiness to find, that there is that latitude allowed us, with regard to the fever in this disorder, that it will admit of repeated evacuations, even to a fifth or sixth time. Riverius pushed it to ten or twelve times. And indeed, where the principal part of the cure is rested upon bleeding, this must be the case. Numerous repetitions will be necessary. But how the case may stand here, and whether we run no danger of introducing a debility into the constitution, by such a practice, is worthy of the most serious consideration. For if, after all, some remains of the disease be left in the habit, Nature thus weakened, may not be able



to effectuate their expulsion; and the consequence to be apprehended, is a fixed and chronic (1) Rheumatism, either in a lower

(1) Sir JOHN PRINGLE, speaking of the chronic Rheumatism, says, "It is *one* of the most obstinate disorders of the Hospitals; being either the *remains* of a Rheumatic fever, or the continuation of pains that proceed at first from neglected colds." Now if it be, according to the Doctor's own observation, the remains of a Rheumatic fever, what so probable to occasion, and to render it obstinate, as prematurely checking the fever, by "repeated and almost daily bleedings," thereby preventing a complete and finished crisis?

Since the above remark appeared in the former edition of my Cases, Sir JOHN hath thought it adviseable (supposing, as may be imagined, that it would be less likely to affect the propriety of his general practice of "repeated and almost daily bleedings,") to state his observation very differently, thus—"The chronic Rheumatism I found one of the *more* (not, as formerly, *most*) obstinate diseases of the Hospital, being either the remains of a Rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, (a term which had never occurred before) or pains," &c. *Ill-cured!* Sir JOHN's method of curing was by "repeated and almost daily bleedings." Doth he mean then to insinuate, that a contrary treatment; viz. the omission of repeated and almost daily bleedings, left the fever *ill-cured*?—That could not be. It doth not appear that a single attempt was made to remove this distemper without the lancet.

lower or higher degree, of shorter or longer duration.

But supposing nothing of this, how may the constitution, in other respects (though not immediately visible) be impaired, by running off so much of the blood of life in the course of a few days or weeks? What a train of disorders may not arise from an impoverished blood? May not new foundations be laid, in this practice, of turning a good constitution into a bad

lancet. One general method was pursued. The chronic Rheumatism, the supposed *remains* of a Rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, was, as fully appears, from the Doctor's own narration, a common disorder of the Hospital, and was treated in one common way.—“Repeated bleeding,” saith Sir JOHN, “was the chief remedy.”—If then the chronic Rheumatism be, as the Doctor himself all along allowed, the remains of a Rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, nothing, as was before suggested, appears so likely, either to occasion the complaint, or to render it obstinate; nor can any *cure* be worse, than that by “repeated” and almost daily bleedings.—The alteration, therefore, in the turn of the sentence, doth by no means invalidate the force of the remark. To have done this, it was incumbent upon Sir JOHN to have shewn, that the *ill-treatment*, of which he speaks, consisted in the *omission* of bleeding. But this is not once attempted.

one,

one, making us an easier prey to future disorders of various kinds? Though it may not be in our power to determine absolutely how this matter may stand, considered in its remotest consequences, we have reason at least to apprehend some unhappy, though more distant effects.

Possibly it might be this apprehended consequence, and the imperfect crisis which he had frequently observed to attend this practice of repeated bleedings, that made the great Sydenham pathetically (m) lament

(m) Dr. SYDENHAM, in a letter to Dr. BRADY, says,  
 “ As to the cure of the Rheumatism, which you likewise  
 “ desired to be informed of, I have frequently regretted,  
 “ as well as you, that it could not be accomplished  
 “ without the loss of a large quantity of blood, by re-  
 “ peated bleeding; whereby the strength is not only  
 “ impaired for a time, but weak persons are usually  
 “ more disposed to other diseases for some years; when  
 “ the matter occasioning the Rheumatism afterwards falls  
 “ upon the lungs, the latent indisposition in the blood  
 “ being put into action, by taking cold, or some other  
 “ slight cause. These reasons induced me to search after  
 “ some other method of curing this disease, than such  
 “ repeated bleeding. And having well considered,  
 “ that

lament the necessity he was under of using the lancet so freely in this disorder. He disliked it so much, that we find, in the later period of his life, he even made attempts to do without it, and some very successful ones.

But not to carry the matter so far; though nature, I believe, who hath subjected us to a great variety of accidents, hath not made us of such very brittle materials, as to disable us from bearing the loss of moderate quantities of blood occasionally; yet whilst we congratulate

“ that it seemed to proceed from an inflammation, as  
 “ appears from the other symptoms, but especially from  
 “ the colour of the blood, which exactly resembles that  
 “ of pleuritics, I judged it might probably be as suc-  
 “ cessfully cured, by a plain, cooling, and moderately  
 “ nourishing diet, as by repeated bleeding; and the  
 “ inconveniencies likewise attending that method a-  
 “ voided. Accordingly, I found that a diet of *Whey*,  
 “ used instead of bleeding, had the desired effect.”

In another part of his work he adds; “ In young  
 “ persons, and such as live temperately, and drink wine  
 “ with moderation, the Rheumatism may be as suc-  
 “ cessfully cured by a very cooling and moderately  
 “ nourishing diet, as by repeated bleeding, which they  
 “ cannot so well bear.”

ourselves



ourselves on the latitude allowed us in this complaint, we ought to be *sparing* of carrying our privilege to its full extent (n); especially, as the fever is so exceedingly

(n) Sir JOHN PRINGLE says, "That the Rheumatisms which occurred were generally of a milder kind, the cure of which was commonly compleated in a few days, by twice or thrice bleeding, &c." But adds, "if the Rheumatism was attended with acute pains, or swelling of the joints, the cure was chiefly to be obtained by repeated and almost daily bleedings, till the feverish heat and the pains were intirely removed, or made much easier;" and adduces, with others, Dr. SYDENHAM, as following "the same method," without the least intimation that SYDENHAM had totally changed both his sentiments and his practice in that respect; which he hath expressed in the strongest manner in his Letter to Dr. BRADY, and elsewhere (See note m, p. 42, 43.

Thus I had stated the matter in a former edition. That I may not appear, (which I should be very sorry to do) to have misrepresented the case, take Sir JOHN's former and later words. Formerly he had said, "This method; viz. (repeated bleeding) has been since followed by the best practical writers, and in particular by RIVERIUS and SYDENHAM." The Doctor's words now are, "This method, *at least in acute Cases*, was afterwards followed by the best practical writers, and in particular by RIVERIUS and SYDENHAM." At  
least

ceedingly instrumental in producing that perfect crisis which we wish for.

All

*least in acute Cases!*—But what of that? no one disputes the fact. SYDENHAM undoubtedly bled freely in the inflammatory Rheumatism. But the main question still returns:—Did he not change both his sentiments and his practice on that head; recommending, *from his own experience*, a method less exceptionable, and equally efficacious? This is most apparent, both from Dr. BRADY's letter, and SYDENHAM's reply; and the matter of surprise is, that Sir JOHN should appear to justify his own practice by an authority which fails him totally. How shall we account for this?—Had Sir JOHN rested the propriety of his practice on the result of his own long and painful experience, no one could have censured; on the contrary, it might have been highly meritorious in him, to have receded from what was *Sydenhamian*, or even *Hippocratic*. But SYDENHAM had his experiences also: and SYDENHAM tells us, in the most express terms, that the result of them was a total change, both of sentiment and practice. And how such a circumstance came to be omitted both in Sir JOHN's former and later editions of his book, remains to be accounted for.

Sir JOHN himself had observed, for a series of years, (it is wonderful he ever should have made the observation) that “in the acute Rheumatism, *internal* medicines “avail little.” Might not the observation have applied equally to the *Hospital-Fever*?—He had observed, that, in the chronic Rheumatism, “*riding* is a specific remedy:” this is *now* omitted.—Might it not have been affirmed with

All that I argue for is, this; not to disturb nature more than we can help, nor to open a vein oftner, than what some violent or threatening symptom indicates; neither beginning with it too early, nor carrying it too far. Indeed, when the fever manifests very great violence, or the concomitant erratic pains shift suddenly, from the extremities, to

with more justice of the Cold Bath?—We were formerly told, that he gave hartshorn, “to keep up a perspiration.”—Now we are told, that he gives thrice a day 40 (formerly 60) drops of the Spirit of Hartshorn as a *cordial*, and *not* as a *sudorific*. Would it not then be highly injurious in any succeeding writer, to quote the authority of Sir JOHN as a justification, either of his opinion or practice in the above respects, not to mention other instances, after his having, in a more recent publication, either wholly dropped his observations, or materially altered his practice?—This is exactly a case in point. I persuade myself therefore Sir JOHN PRINGLE will find himself disposed to do ample justice, in this respect, to the memory of Dr. SYDENHAM, who hath deserved so well of the Faculty; who hath already reaped, and will continue to reap, those honours which no earthly Potentate can confer; and whose works will be read and revered long after my Cases in the Gout and Rheumatism, and Sir JOHN’s Observations on the Diseases of the Army, are buried in oblivion.

the

the more noble internal parts, affecting the sides or the breath particularly, which now and then happens, it must be allowed.—

But I shall dismiss this Case for the present, as I may very probably be obliged to recur to it, in the Remarks on the subsequent Cases, with observing, that notwithstanding these lesser differences, and variations, yet the disorder gave way to the same treatment, and the expeditious cure was the effect of the same medicine.

### C A S E III.

**H**ENRY ABCHURCH, of Dalston, a gardener, in the 20th year of his age, of a tall, thin, sanguineous habit, was in perfect health till the 4th of April 1773, when a *crick*, or *snatch*, as he expressed himself,



himself, seized his right leg all at once as he was walking: which soon affected his thigh, and, after sitting down for some time, he became so stiff, and full of pain about his loins, that he was almost disabled from rising from his seat; nor could he get any rest in the night; and, during the night, was unable to turn himself in bed, without assistance.

The next day he was sensibly feverish. And his complaints were encreased, particularly the pains in his loins. It removed afterwards to his left ankle, which became red and swelled, as did his knees and his wrists afterwards, to a great degree. The pain and swelling, as they abated in one part, flew to, and increased in another. Though the thirst and fever were considerable the whole time, yet no delirium was ever observed.

On the second day after the seizure, he was bled, and Cordial Confection, with Sal. C. C. was given him; and, at intervals, purgatives, with Merc. Dul.; and the tumified joints were rubbed with Opopondoc.

Thus

Thus matters continued for a full fortnight, according to the best description I could get of the Case.

When I was called in, the pains were confined to his knees and ancles chiefly, which were inflamed and swelled in some degree; and, though in a subsiding state, he was still unable to move them. His fever also was considerable; but not so active as it had been some days past; and from the beginning of his illness, he had been, as he was now, rather costive.

Seven ounces of blood were taken away, by my direction; which was fizy and pleuritic: and the following draught given that night, and repeated twice the next day:

R Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. ʒss.

Solve in Vitel. ov. Mucilag.

Gum. Arab. vel Mel. Com. q. f.

dein. adde gradatim

Aq. Hordeat. ʒiſs.

E

Syr.

Syr. Balsam. 3ss.

M. Fiat. Haust. (o)

In the evening of that day he quitted his bed. His fever left him, and his pains and swellings disappeared intirely. A single draught, with a dram and half of Elix. Paregor. was the only thing given him farther; and the patient hath continued from that time to this in perfect health.

(o) This form is put down once for all, for the satisfaction of such as chuse a form. For my own part, I generally give the Tincture in common water, when it can be so taken, with which it mixes very well, without any immediate separation, when the Spirit is fresh and good, and the Gum good also; and thus fits easiest on the stomach, and bids fairest for answering every intention.

REMARKS.

## REMARKS.

**T**HIS Case appears quite dissimilar to both the former in *one* instance. The patient was bled in the earliest attack of the disorder, the very day after the seizure.—Doth not this overturn all our former reasoning?—No harm we find ensued; none, at least, that was visible. The medicine operated as successfully, and as speedily, after a second bleeding, as in the former Case. We are therefore to suppose the matter was as well prepared, by coction and comminution, for expulsion, as if no such step had been taken; so that, what was considered as an advantage in the first Case, *viz.* the omission of early bleeding, seems to fall to the ground at once.

To consider this matter a little farther: as, in the present Case, early bleeding was



attended with no bad consequences; so neither was the omission, in the Case of Mary Wright.

Thus far matters are pretty even; but then, if the fever be an instrument in nature's hand, of so good omen and utility, the decision is evidently in favour of the omission, unless some untoward symptom or circumstance make it necessary. And this is all that is contended for.

But let it be remembered first, that Abchurch was only once bled, and that a full fortnight had elapsed, before I was called in, and directed him to be bled again; during all which time the fever had been very active, and doing that for us, which no human art or medicine can do; and every thing was ripe for the crisis, which was soon compleated, after I saw him.

Let it be also observed, that as the first bleeding did no harm, so neither is it manifest, that any great good was gained by it. This however is certain, that the patient in the first instance received no

injury

injury from the omission. I cannot therefore help thinking it an advantage in Abchurch's Case, that nature was no farther disturbed by venesection, for so long a space of time; as it gave an opportunity of a second bleeding, immediately before the medicine was given. For it is adviseable to administer the medicine as soon as possible after the bleeding; beginning the use of it early in the evening, and repeating it early in the morning. But perhaps this is being too minute.

All that I mean is, that we ought not to attempt any thing so hostile to the fever, as to endanger its too early extinction; but so to conduct ourselves, as not to disoblige our best friend too much, and provoke him to leave us to struggle with a cold chronic (p) Rheumatism, the

E 3

cause

(p) Dr. CULLEN, in a recent publication, seems to be made fully sensible of this, and though, in consistence with *his own* system, an advocate both for general and topical bleedings in the acute Rheumatism, yet appriseth us fully of the danger and inconveniences of

cause of which, intrenching itself in some deep recess of the body, may annoy us all our future days with continued pain and misery,

My reasoning hitherto hath proceeded

extending these evacuations too far. But take his own words.—“For the most part, large and repeated bleedings, during the first days of the disease, seem to be necessary, and accordingly have been much employed; but to this some bounds are to be set, for very profuse bleedings occasion a slow recovery, and, if not absolutely effectual, are ready to produce a *chronic Rheumatism*.”—Again, “The attempting a Cure by large and repeated bleedings is attended with many inconveniences, occasioning a slower recovery, rendering the person more liable to a relapse, and bringing on other diseases.”—Nay, he acknowledgeth farther, “that though large evacuations by the lancet, &c. do moderate the violence of the disease, and sometimes *relieve* it intirely, yet they sometimes fail in this, and leave the cure *imperfect*.” Adding, “that the most effectual and *safe* method of curing this [disease, is, after some general bleedings for taking off, or at least diminishing the *phlogistic diathesis*, to employ sweating, properly conducted.”—Now what is all this, but retailing in his own language (which to an English ear is rather uncouth) Dr SYDENHAM’s own observations?

upon



upon the Cases produced, and my own observations.

Let us now see, how the doctrine laid down will agree with, or is countenanced by, the principles and sentiments of some of the most eminent medical writers; though it must be confessed, that their practice, on this head, differs from mine.

The great French physician Riverius began the cure of this disorder with bleeding, and sometimes repeated it even to ten or twelve times, restricting it only by the abatement of the complaint, or the apparent inability of the patient to bear more, without manifest injury. But at the same time, this excellent physician, who seems to have considered the disorder with much yattention, forbids purgatives and sudorifics, in the beginning, the increase, or even when the fever hath arrived at its altitude and permanent state, allowing gentle openers in the declination only, and the stronger purgatives not till the intire absence of the fever, and sudorifics not till after these, and last of all.



Now, let us ask ourselves this plain question—If, in the opinion of this great man, nature ought not to be disturbed, either by purgatives or sudorifics, until the declination at least of the fever, why should she be disturbed and counteracted by bleeding, and weakening the fever unnecessarily? The violence, thus offered to nature, by purgatives and sudorifics, too early administered, did harm; and by no means answered the end proposed. How, indeed, could this be otherwise; it being impossible to carry off the noxious matter, as yet not sufficiently fitted for secretion and evacuation, and to pass through the extreme fine strainers and canals, which convey it to the surface of the body? And what, may we ask, is so likely to produce this maturity, as nature's own instrument, the fever itself?

We may, I think, fairly gather, from the account he gives of his own management, that the disorder was spun out to a considerable length, and no perfect crisis obtained, by bleeding *alone*; for, when the fever

fever was gone, after the use of the milder, he was constrained to fly to stronger and more drastic purgatives; nay, farther, to bring up in the rear sudorifics, warm baths, corroborants, &c. before he could intirely rout the enemy. And, it is more than probable, by this continual endeavour to subdue the fever, the disorder was protracted to an unnecessary length, and that a radical, and permanent cure, became as dubious as it was tedious. Had he been more sparing of the lancet, his purgatives and sudorifics would have been given with success, the disease terminated sooner, and with less danger of weakening the constitution.

Let it be farther remarked, that this great physician had himself observed (q),

(q) Quod ad prognosim attinet, affectus iste raro, aut nunquam vitæ periculum infert, sed longitudine sua magnam parit molestiam; ad duos enim vel tres menses perseverat, si sit *sine* febre; imo vero interdum, præcipue si non recte curetur, ad annum, vel plures annos extenditur.—Si *cum* febre rheumatismus oriatur, brevior esse solet, &c.

that

that a fever, along with the Rheumatism, was the happiest omen of an abbreviated crisis, and a speedy termination of the pain. Now, could any observation more strongly confirm the utility of the fever in this disease, or so forcibly prohibit any violent measures to subdue it; when this very fever is confessedly the happiest indication of the shortness of the disorder? And doth not this observation of a justly celebrated physician, whose practice was directly contrary to the principle I have acted upon, give the strongest countenance and support to the above reasonings and conclusions?

During my attendance upon these Cases, I occasionally consulted our own countryman, the great British Hippocrates. And though indeed the practice of this immortal physician did not favour me, but was directly opposite to mine, (for he bled both early and freely in this disease, at least in the former part of his life) yet his general theory with respect to all feverish disorders, very much confirmed the principles, upon which I have conducted



deduced both my experiments, and treatment of it.

But, setting aside his general theory, we shall find, on a careful examination, where he expressly treats on the Rheumatism, such hints and passages as seem extremely conclusive in favour of what I am recommending.

Towards the close of his description of this disorder, he says,—“In the beginning of the illness, the fever and the above-mentioned symptoms do sometimes come together; but the fever goes off gradually, whilst the pain continues: occasioned by the derivation of the febrile matter to the limbs, which the frequent return of the fever, from the repulsion of the morbid matter by external remedies, sufficiently shows.”

Let us now weigh well this observation, from which these two Queries naturally arise.

1<sup>st</sup>. If some external remedies, by repelling the morbid matter from the limbs, cause a return of the fever—Doth

it



it not appear then, from the fairest deduction, that the fever is the instrument of nature, to prepare the disorder for expulsion; and that, if she be not so happy as perfectly to effect this, by means of a general perspiration, &c. she lodges it upon the limbs, at a distance from the more vital parts? — So kind is she in all her operations!

adly. If the fever, which from this plain indication appears to be thus expulsive of the disease, goes off for the most part gradually, “whilst the pain continues, and sometimes increases;” Doth not this give us the strongest intimation of the caution to be used in the treatment of the fever, and prohibit any attempt to reduce it, either too early or too much?

The reasonableness of this will be farther manifest, by observing what follows: where he says, “That though, when the fever is gone off, this disorder seldom proves fatal: yet the violence of the pain, and its long continuance, render it no contemptible disease; and that, in  
“ case

" case of wrong management, it frequent-  
 " ly remains, not only several months,  
 " but some years; nay, even during life:  
 " though, in this case, it is not equally  
 " painful, but hath its periodical returns,  
 " like the Gout; and the pain may pos-  
 " sibly go off spontaneously, after it hath  
 " been of very long standing."

Now, doth not this tragical picture,  
 with the additional circumstance of " the  
 " deprivation of a man's limbs during  
 " life; the contractions on the internal  
 " parts of the fingers more especially, as  
 " in the Gout, while the appetite and the  
 " general health remain good;"—Doth  
 not, I say, this tragical picture sufficiently  
 terrify us, with the too common conse-  
 quences of an unfinished crisis?

This great author ascribes these dread-  
 ful effects, frequently, to wrong manage-  
 ment. But we may ask, Whether there  
 can be any management so wrong, as an  
 attempt totally to extinguish that fever,  
 which is so friendly and beneficial, and  
 which he farther observes is apt " to go  
 " off gradually," without an abatement,  
 and

and sometimes with an increase of the pain.

Indeed, the great author, in the same paragraph, seems to intimate, as if the fever itself was the most alarming and dangerous circumstance—"Though when the fever is gone off," says he, "it seldom proves fatal,"—yet I cannot help thinking it to be more alarming in its appearance, than dangerous and fatal in its nature, agreeably to his own observation, That it "goes off gradually," the pain however continuing.

And it must be owned, that many persons of great skill and practice, have entertained the same idea of eminent danger from the fever, and are thereby led to carry bleeding to a considerable length; it being their primary intention to subdue the fever, and to remove the subsequent pains by other methods in common use.

But so much for this.—I must however ask pardon for the freedom of my remarks on those two great physicians, Riverius and Sydenham. Of the latter  
it



it must be said, but with due deference, that he departs more from nature, the physician's best guide, in this, than in his treatment of other diseases; his sentiments and his practice both fluctuating very much on this subject. And yet much more is to be learned from him, even in this more defective performance, than from any other writer. He is, however, the greatest ornament to his country; and, in the sphere of the physical world, shines amidst a few scattered clouds of theory, with so superior a light as justly to merit the poet's elegant compliment to the *Julium Sidus*,

— *Micat inter omnes,*

— *Velut inter ignes*

*Luna minores.*

**CASE**



## CASE IV.

**JOHN ALLEN**, a porter, in the 29th year of his age, a stout, strong-built man, of a sanguineous habit, was suddenly seized in the beginning of July 1772, with the usual feverish symptoms, particularly great sickness at his stomach, which were soon followed with racking pains in his limbs.

Mr. Sherson first saw him on the 9th of July, bled him freely, and the sickness continuing, ordered him an emetic of antimonial wine, which was followed with gr. xv. of Dr. Dover's powder. The patient's joints being swelled, and exceeding red and painful, and the fever continuing, the disorder evidently appeared to be an acute Rheumatism. He was bled thrice afterwards, had purgatives given him, at due intervals, consisting of Sena, Manna, Tart. Solubil.

Solubil. Sal. Polychrest. with sudorifics; such as Camphor, Gum Guaiac. Essen. Antimon. Huxham. and other preparations of Antimony. By these means the pains and the fever abating considerably, or rather appearing to be subdued, a fair opportunity seemed to offer, of throwing in the Bark; which was done accordingly, and very liberally, both in substance and decoction. But as it ran off pretty quick downwards, it became necessary to discontinue it; and both the fever and the pains of the joints returning with equal, if not greater violence, recourse was had to Sp. Minder. draughts, with Essen. Antimon. and the camphorated julep; checking the looseness at the same time by a temperate use of opiates.

I saw him on the evening of the 18th, and having at that time a troublesome cough, as well as flying pains, which now and then affected one side particularly, with the following symptoms, *viz.* fever, pulse quick, but rather weak, tongue white and foul, urine turbid, and high coloured, with something of a brick-

dust sediment; the joints of his fingers a little swelled, and here and there red and inflamed. Nocturnal and profuse sweats had also taken place; insomuch, that he was obliged to change his linen frequently. No delirium then, or in any part of his illness. I ordered him a blister to the side affected; and a mixture with half an ounce of Elix. Paregor. and the same quantity of Sp. Vol. Aromat. of which four spoonfuls were to be taken every five hours.

The next day, the pain of his side abating, and observing the fever to be on the decline, I directed half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of common water, and a drachm of syrup to be given twice that day, and four spoonfuls of the mixture every six hours.

The draught produced its usual and desired effect, both by urine, perspiration, and stool. Not willing to push the matter farther, the succeeding day I ordered him a cordial draught, with volatile salts, and gutt. viii. of Tinct. Thebaic. to be taken morning and evening, adding to the mixture,



ture, the cough still continuing obstinate, half an ounce of spermaceti. The next day, viz. the 21st, eight ounces of blood were taken from him; and half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. given two hours afterwards, and in the evening also, in two ounces and half of common water, and a drachm and a half of syrup of saffron; to which gutt. viii. of Tinct. Thebaic. were added, to determine it, as much as possible, to the surface, and to prevent its passing off too quickly downwards. On the 22d, it had procured three motions, as it did on its first exhibition, a free perspiration, a large discharge by urine, and a total cessation of his pains and fever. A strong decoction of the Bark, with Cordial Confection, was directed afterwards, and continued to the 26th;—when I left him perfectly well.

F 2

REMARKS.



## R E M A R K S.

**T**HIS last Case differs from all the foregoing, in the following respects:—Great sickness prevailed in the beginning;—a troublesome cough through the whole of the illness;—flying, darting pains affected one side particularly, as in the pleurisy, which often happens;—and in the more advanced stages of the disorder, debilitating, profuse night sweats.

Matters being in this situation, I resolved to pause a little and to satisfy myself, with attempting to ease the cough, and to remove the erratic lateral pains, by such means, however, as coincided with the general intention of the cure.

Fully convinced, from many appearances, that nature had aimed at a crisis for some days past, I considered these debilitating

bilitating colliquative sweats as symptomatic merely, not critical; or, if critical, as her feeble, ineffectual endeavours to throw off an oppressive load from the constitution: but, whether symptomatic or partially critical, most certain it is, the patient always found himself much the worse after them.

Apprehending some danger from the disorder, as being a little anomalous, and that it must either terminate in death, or be followed with something worse than death itself, an imperfect crisis; or, at least, that it would be protracted to an unnecessary length, if the usual methods only were pursued; I determined to try the medicine in this very late period of the disorder, when nature seemed to labour too much in her endeavours to effectuate a perfect crisis, being obviously calculated (in the language of medical writers) to *fuse* the blood and fizy disposition of the fluids; to rouse the languid spirits; to excite a kindly and genial perspiration, and to drive the distemper from the habit by every other outlet.

Such were the happy effects of this medicine, in these untoward circumstances; and by giving it for two days only, a most salutary consequence followed; nor can I entertain a doubt, but that, had it been given some days sooner, the disorder had been shortened, and the patient freed from much languishing and misery. I blamed myself, on reflecting upon this case, for having acted with too much timidity.

Let me not forget this circumstance, that the patient himself observed, that the sweats which followed the medicine, were not excessive and profuse; but that he felt a genial warmth and glow during their continuance, and came out of them sensibly better and refreshed, whilst the others lowered and weakened him.

It ought to be farther noticed, that the medicine was not given rashly and at random. I could not help pausing a whole day, a lost day! doubtful, as things were circumstanced, whether to give it or not. The urgency of the Case, however, joined to the foregoing reasoning, and the fullest

con-



conviction of its utility, determined me to try it; and the event speaks for itself.

### CASE V.

**J**OHNN ALLEN, the person mentioned in the last Case, had a return of his Rheumatic complaints, about Midsummer last, (a twelvemonth's interval from his former seizure) attended with a smart fever, violent pain in his shoulders, arms, and legs; but without any swellings in his joints. His loins also were so stiff, that he was unable to rise from his seat. All his complaints were aggravated by the warmth of the bed.

On the 2d day of his illness he had taken, by the advice of some of his friends, a dose of Jalap, which operated very briskly.

His pain and impatience were so great, on the evening of the 3d day, when I first



saw him, that he insisted upon something being immediately done for his relief.

Twelve ounces of blood were taken away, and his old medicine, of which he had conceived a good opinion, directed twice a day.

Eight ounces more blood were taken away three days afterwards.

On the 6th, he thought himself intirely well; and desired to walk abroad, which was permitted him, the weather being very fine.

During all this time, he was not confined (r) to his bed; and the medicine generally

(r) It hath ever been my practice, and the best consequences have followed it, to recommend to my patients, when able, in this and all other-inflammatory diseases, to sit up some hours every day, agreeably to Dr. SYDENHAM's advice, beyond comparison the best guide in the treatment of such disorders. "I advise the patient, says he, speaking of the acute Rheumatism, "to sit up some hours every day, because the heat, "which proceeds from always lying in bed, promotes "and increases the disease." — "To prevent the patient being over heated during the continuance of "the distemper [the pleurisy] I allow him to sit up a "few hours every day, as his strength will permit; "which

generally gave him three, and sometimes four stools, in twenty-four hours.

In

“ which indeed is of so much moment here, that if  
 “ he be kept always in bed, neither the plentiful eva-  
 “ cuation of blood, nor the most cooling medicines,  
 “ will sometimes at all avail in conquering the symp-  
 “ toms.”—And yet, astonishing to say ! It would seem  
 as if this direction was of little or no consequence, were  
 we to judge solely from modern writers, or modern  
 practice. This inattention, however, to so momentous  
 a circumstance, hath not passed unnoticed, or without  
 just reprehension, by Dr. MUSGRAVE, in his late sensible  
 Lectures before our College. “ I know not, saith the  
 “ Doctor, whether I shall be pardoned for supposing,  
 “ that the direction of so celebrated a practitioner, hath  
 “ not been fully or properly attended to ; but sure, I  
 “ am, there is too much ground for the supposition.—  
 “ I collect it from this most remarkable circumstance,  
 “ that almost all the writers on the pleurisy [he might  
 “ have added, on the Rheumatic fever also] from the  
 “ time of SYDENHAM, to the present hour, have pass-  
 “ ed it over in silence. There are, it is true, a few  
 “ exceptions. — But the writers who have disregarded  
 “ this precept, are much more numerous.—Dr. HUX-  
 “ HAM, in a very prolix discourse, containing perhaps  
 “ every thing else that the argument could suggest, hath  
 “ not a word or syllable relative to what SYDENHAM  
 “ considers as essential to the successful treatment.—  
 “ I could name authors, not a few, of our own age —  
 “ who have written professedly on the subject, and been  
 “ equally

In about ten days time, I was sent for again, and informed my patient was taken

as

“ equally inattentive to this circumstance.—If we consider the authority and reputation of SYDENHAM, and the very positive and striking manner in which this aphorism is delivered, it is difficult to conceive that so many writers should have passed it over with deliberate contempt.”

“ A remark, continues the Doctor, will here naturally occur, that if this cooling practice is really necessary to the cure of the disease, the practitioners who have neglected it, must have been very unsuccessful in their treatment of such patients.—The supposition however humiliating, is strongly countenanced by their writings. For let any one compare the account they give of the disorder in its advanced state, with what SYDENHAM says of it, and he will find the difference to be enormous. Their descriptions are full of misery, suffering and danger.—What on the contrary does SYDENHAM say? Instead of a long catalogue of alarming and troublesome symptoms—he tells us with confidence, that the cure of the pleurisy, *in the method laid down by him*, is as safe and certain as that of any disorder whatsoever.”

“ After having said thus much of the excellency of SYDENHAM’s method, it will naturally be asked, whether I have myself followed it exactly, and with what success?—I answer—that I have tried both ways; that I have cured patients whom I suffered to  
“ lie



as ill as ever. I found his pulse quick and strong, and the joints of his fingers swelled a little, and inflamed. He was bled once more,

“ lie in bed, but that in those cases the symptoms have  
 “ always run considerably higher, and continued much  
 “ longer, than since I have adhered more exactly to  
 “ SYDENHAM’s method; under which the disorder  
 “ takes so different an appearance, that I am confident  
 “ no man who tries them both, will at all hesitate to  
 “ give it the preference.”

There is another rule of Dr. SYDENHAM’s in inflammatory disorders of very great, though, perhaps, not of equal moment with the foregoing, but which is as much neglected in practice. I mean his advising, among other diluting liquors, *small beer*. And the above two plain and simple directions of the good old man’s, are, in my opinion, of more real importance, than any precepts of later writers, not copied from him, though dressed out with far more pomp and parade. And it is ever to be lamented, as Dr. MUSGRAVE observes, “ that this learned and excellent author is much more  
 “ commended, than read.”

To the abovementioned rules, however, I take the liberty to add on my own experience (following still the principles of this great man) this farther direction, *viz.* to attend to and indulge the natural cravings and desires of the patient, much more than is generally done, and that, in all cases whatsoever. This, it may be depended upon, will be followed with the most beneficial effects.



more, and the medicine repeated twice a day, for three days; when a perfect crisis being formed, and the fever and swelling disappearing, the Bark was directed, which in a few days restored him to his usual health and activity.

### R E M A R K S.

**T**HIS Case differs from any of the foregoing, more in the manner of treatment, than in any peculiar symptoms in the disorder itself. On the second day after the attack, a strong drastic purgative was given. An attempt was made to put a period to the disorder in as speedy a manner as possible, by the united effort of bleeding, and a medicine, of whose efficacy, in this disorder, I had the fullest experience.

The success answered my utmost expectation;

pectation ; at least, if any effect may be attributed to the medicine, it was followed with as good success, as the medicines usually given on the like occasions, and on which practitioners wholly depend : I mean saline, or nitrous draughts ; especially, if we take into the account, the (s) trifling

(s) Dr. BROCKLESBY, in his *medical observations on military diseases*, hath justly reprobated “ The inefficacy  
“ of the common practice of physicians, in giving nitre  
“ about this town,” and orders drachms instead of scruples.—“ I directed, says he, the following regimen : That,  
“ for diet and sustenance, the sick should be enjoined only  
“ to drink, for some days successively, the greatest quantities of smooth, boiled water-gruel, that their stomachs  
“ would endure ; in each quart of it, I directed two  
“ drachms of pure nitre to be dissolved, with or without  
“ sugar occasionally, and I repeated, at proper intervals,  
“ as often as ever the stomach would bear it, large  
“ draughts of this nitrous decoction warmed ; by which  
“ method I often prevailed on the soldiers to take even  
“ ten drachms of nitre, or more, the first twenty-four  
“ hours, in three, four, five, or six quarts of diluting  
“ drink.” This was no “ presumptuous” attempt in the Doctor ; on the contrary, the world is obliged to him for his cautious experiments, and daring to quit the beaten road of practice.—I would only take leave to suggest, for the Doctor’s reflection, whether the “ plentiful

trifling doses in which they are commonly given. To me they have long appeared, as almost insignificant; and the best that can be said of them, in this complaint at least, is that they are harmless; and may serve to amuse the patient and bye-standers, till a fair opportunity offers of doing something more efficacious.

Let it be observed here, that in the former part of Allen's second case, no swellings appeared. How indeed could it be expected (t)—For, not to mention the large evacuations

“tiful and profuse sweats” were not excited as much, by so great a dilution, as by the *sudorific* quality of the nitre; especially, if regard be had to the nature of the disorder.

(t) Dr. MONRO, in his account of the diseases of the *Military Hospitals*, says—“We had but very few Rheumatisms, accompanied with swelling, pain, and inflammation of the joints of the knees and wrists, &c. which are so common in our hospitals about *London*.”—Is not this sufficiently accounted for, by telling us,—that “We bled freely, and repeated the evacuation often, if the blood continued *stagnant*?”—For it is very well known, that the patients who are sent to the hospitals in town, have frequently had their complaints upon them a week,



evacuations made by the dose of Jalap,  
the common practice of early bleeding  
might

a fortnight, or more, before any assistance had, or rather, as I should say, before nature had been obstructed in her salutary operations, by too free, and too frequent evacuations by the lancet.

The practice of repeating the evacuation *so long as the blood continues fizy*, is certainly most injudicious; and whoever follows this rule, without a due attention to other more important and less fallacious circumstances, must do it oftentimes to the manifest injury, if not the death of the patient.

Dr. PRINGLE had expressed himself equally unguardedly on this head, saying, "If the blood in the chronic Rheumatism is not *fizy*," (in the hospitals, he had informed us it was always so) "we may suppose the soldier either pretends indisposition, or that the pains are of another nature." — But he now acknowledges, after my remark upon the words above and below, "that he has since seen persons of better condition, with the same complaints, and under no temptation to disguise their case, without — any visible alteration in their blood." — Notwithstanding, the Dr. still suffers himself to say, referring doubtless to his former, not to his later practice, "whenever I found it inflamed, I made the patient lose blood — as long as it continued *fizy*, or his complaints remained."

Dr. HUXHAM speaks much in the same manner, but with marks of greater attention: "More blood should be  
drawn,



might obstruct nature in her salutary operations, and prevent her, by such premature

“ drawn,——especially if it appears firm and dense, or  
 “ covered over with a *tough* yellowish coat or *buff*, as  
 “ it is called, which, however, *very frequently* doth not  
 “ appear, till the second or third bleeding, though the  
 “ symptoms may indicate a very high inflammation.”  
 Further, “ the dense buffy appearance of the blood, with  
 “ a firm strong pulse, will warrant the drawing off  
 “ blood, &c.” — But would not a firm strong pulse,  
 and symptoms indicating a very high inflammation,  
 warrant the drawing off blood, even where none of  
 this tough yellowish coat or buff doth appear; since we  
 we are told in the preceding sentence, “ That it very  
 “ frequently doth not appear till the second or third,  
 “ bleeding?” —

The fizy surface of the blood, therefore, can be no rule,  
 for the propriety of venesection, because it is uncertain,  
 whether it doth exist or not, previous to the operation;  
 and when it doth make its appearance, it is not frequently  
 till the second or third bleeding; and then, who will say  
 to what length it is to be carried?—To continue the  
 practice *as long as* it doth appear, would undoubtedly be  
 (as was said above) to the detriment, if not the destruction  
 of the patient. And besides, this inflammatory crust, as  
 it is called, is often produced as a justification for drawing  
 off blood in Cases, where it is often to be regretted, that  
 it hath been taken away at all; as for instance, in putrid  
 fevers, dropfies, and in the most infirm constitutions.  
 See note h. p. 32. and note i. p. 35.

ture discharges, from throwing the disorder, in her usual manner, on the joints, so copiously as could have been wished.

But mark the event:—though the patient found himself sensibly relieved, nay, thought himself perfectly well, and walked abroad; yet, in no long time, the disorder shewed itself afresh. His fever returned, and his joints swelled, and were slightly inflamed: nor did it appear that this was occasioned by any irregularity, or the accession of cold.

This was exactly the case in his first seizure. After several bleedings, and when the fever had been so far subdued thereby, that a fair opportunity seemed to offer, and it was accordingly embraced, of throwing in the Bark; yet, notwithstanding, the fever and the pains returned with equal intensity; nay, possibly, had not the Bark passed off pretty quick by stool, some worse consequences might have ensued.

Nothing, however, could prove more satisfactorily, the safety of the medicine, than the Case before us; wherein it was given, not in the latter stage merely, but

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almost

almost in the very beginning of the disease, and continued for several days, along with suitable evacuations by the lancet.

It cannot, surely, be objected to the medicine, that it failed of success, because the disorder returned (u) soon afterwards.

The same objection would lie, equally, against the use of saline, nitrous, antimonial, and camphorated medicines; all of which proved ineffectual, in preventing a relapse in this same person, when formerly attacked with this complaint, after the usual indeed, but, in my opinion, the injudicious practice of early and repeated bleedings.

But, if it should be denied, that any advantage was obtained by the medicine, previous to the relapse; if the whole of the ease and relief which was procured, should be ascribed, not to the medicine (and I should be unwilling that more should be ascribed to it, than what it justly deserved)

(u) May not the Rheumatism, that *agnatus morbus* to the Gout, as BOERHAAVE somewhere calls it, appear with its usual symptoms in more fits than one?

but



but to the loss of blood, it must still be allowed, to be as efficacious as any medicines in common use, where copious bleeding takes place along with them.

It ought not by any means to be forgotten, that it was at the pressing instigation of the patient, overcome with the most exquisite pain and anguish, that I departed from a general rule, in drawing off blood, both early and freely, and administering too his old remedy, in so recent a stage of the disease. It was the first instance, in which I remember to have done it. The experiment was made with caution; and such are certainly allowable, when no way hazardous.

But if we are to consider this last attack, not as a fresh disorder occasioned either by some irregularities, or the influence of the season, but as a prolongation of the original complaint (and such I did then consider it) let it be remarked, that the medicine was given at the very time, in which I had always given it, *viz.* in the latter stage of the disorder, when nature appearing to have made her last and full effort



to relieve herself, by throwing the disorder on the extremities, and evincing by every other indication, that she was ready for this assistance, gave the most flattering hopes of a perfect crisis. I succeeded in this last case, as happily as in the first instance, and by the very same means.

## CASE VI.

**H**ANNAH SKELTON, of Lowlayton, aged forty, of a strong make, and full sanguineous habit, was, on the 7th of December 1773, seized with a sharp pain in her shoulders, which ran down to her wrists. She had also flying stitches, or catches (as she called them) about her stomach, which moved (x) hourly from one side

(x) Hot and inflammatory Rheumatisms have all the symptoms of the Gout, and like it, change from place to place,

sided to the other, like a dart, and which, at times, affected her breathing. Nature had been obstructed in the *sexual* operation for above ten weeks; but on the 15th manifested itself again with proper vigour, as when most regular.

On the 16th, I found her pulse quick, but low; her thirst considerable, tongue white, both wrists a little swelled, but not inflamed. No swellings in any other part. She was costive, but had taken no medicines.

I directed the medicine, as in the Cases above related, twice a day. On taking the very first dose, the stitches and pains at her stomach intirely ceased, and she was enabled to breath with ease and freedom. The swellings in her wrists increased, and the joints of the fingers became here and  
 G 3 there

place, and by other violent evacuations may be translated upon the noble organs; and by the way, it may not be amiss to observe, that excessive bleedings, and other violent evacuations, constantly bring a hectic, or a dropsy on the patient in this case, diseases of a much more dangerous nature in themselves, and far more difficult to be cured, than the original one. CHEYNE.

there red and inflamed. Her ancles also swelled considerably, a day or two afterwards; but without any appearance of redness.

In this method she continued till the 20th; when finding every thing as I could wish, at the extremities, and a disposition to a looseness coming on, I thought proper to relax a little, directing only two drachms of the Volatile Tincture of Valerian, twice a day, leaving directions for taking away as much blood as she could well bear, (being all along faint and weak), as soon as the catamenia had intirely left her. That was done accordingly the next day, and the blood had its usual buffy and fizy appearance. The Guaiacum draught was repeated twice a day, from the 22d to the 25th; when all her complaints ceasing, it was directed only once a day; and I left her to all appearance perfectly well. On the 7th of January, I was informed, that she remained quite free from her fever and her pains; but still continued very low. On which I recommended the Bark, and the cold bath.

While



While these sheets were at the press, the 12th of February, I accidentally met the patient who informed me she had omitted the cold bath; but on taking the Bark, grew daily better, and was then in full health.

### R E M A R K S.

**T**HE reader will observe, that this Case continued in hand, longer than any of the former.

Might not this be owing, in some measure, to the season of the year? or to the languid state of the fever? For it was not that active fever, which sometimes accompanies this disorder, in the spring more especially. And though, after giving the medicine, the disease was thrown abundantly on the wrists, and joints of the fingers, and remarkably so on the ancles; yet might not



the natural discharge, which continued for several days, carry off much of the complaint? Might not that evacuation contribute also to lower the fever, and prevent its rising to its usual height? Were not the stitches, which affected the patient's stomach, and flew perpetually from side to side, occasioned by the retrocession of the distemper from the circumference towards the center, owing to the more than usual languor, and low estate of the patient, or to the slowness of nature's best instrument, the fever itself?—Be that as it may—It appeared to me of absolute necessity, by the most efficacious means to keep the malady at a distance from the vital parts; and, on some future, and more favourable occasion, endeavour totally to expel it. The Case itself, and its effects, best speak, whether my conjectures were right.

The reader may see here, that the medicine, call it rheumatic, arthritic, or what you please, had shewed that accommodation (if I may so speak) to this disorder, as to throw it from the interior  
 parts,

parts, to those extreme ones, where nature, when strong enough, is generally inclined to deposit it, in order to its elimination.

And now perhaps, at the conclusion of these Cases upon the acute Rheumatism, I may be asked, Would you choose to give this medicine, under the notion of its having a specific quality, in the rise or increase of this complaint? Perhaps the question is not so easily answered. Besides, it is rarely the lot of the physician to be called in at the commencement of the disorder. In one instance, it hath already appeared what was done, and how the medicine acted.

In my opinion, the latter case of Allen, to which I refer, Janus-like, hath two faces; for it doth not give great encouragement to administer it very early in the disease; because the crisis seemed unfinished, and to occasion so quick a return of the disorder. Yet the medicine shewed a certain aptitude to remove the complaint, from the very beginning; and, on its return, with the assistance of once bleeding to  
favour

favour its activity, a perfect crisis was produced in three days.—All I shall say at present is, that if we must take the disorder out of nature's hands, (too general a practice) I should sooner do it by this, than by any other medicine.—Future experiments can alone ascertain, how early in the disease, and with what certain advantage, it may be so given.

As to the medicine itself, it is a gentle opener (y), dissolving, by its activity, the coagulated fæces in the bowels, without pain or griping; nor is it a violent sudorific. Possibly it may also fuse and incide the viscid parts of the blood, as it passes through the circulation; or, by invigorating the coats and fibres of the vessels, may restore an equilibrium betwixt the solids and the fluids. But I stop short, lest I tread the fairy ground of theory,

(y) GEOFFROY says of the Gum—"Guaiacum crassa  
 " incidit & attenuat, lenta detergit, obstructa aperit  
 " & liberat, sudores provocat, urinam ciet, &c. &c.  
 " Dolores Rheumaticos dictos tollit, podagram, chyr-  
 " agram, ischiada, omnemque arthritim mire juvat,  
 " &c."

and



and pretend to know, what no man living doth or can know.

As to its being hot or cold also, I leave that to others, who are much wiser than myself, in the words of Dr. Quincy, when speaking of the virtues of *Campfire* :—

“ It hath been much debated,” says he,  
 “ whether this be really hot (z) or cold: its  
 “ sense upon the palate, at first taking,  
 “ persuading the former; and its usefulness  
 “ in *allaying inflammations*, encouraging  
 “ the latter opinion. If by warmth  
 “ is understood such a subtilty of parts,  
 “ as disposes them to brisk motion and  
 “ to agitate what is about them; this has

(z) As to the Volatile part of the medicine,—“ The  
 “ Salt of Hartshorn,” says Dr. PRINGLE, “ was only  
 “ used occasionally in great depressions; and even  
 “ in other Cases, I have never been sensible [the  
 “ observation is a just one] of its raising any in-  
 “ flammatory or fixed heat, but only a momentary  
 “ glow.”

How different this from, but how much more just  
 than the words of Dr. HUXHAM, “ It is a certain  
 “ fact—that Volatile alcalious Salts—given internally,  
 “ heat vastly more, quantity for quantity, than the  
 “ warmest vegetable alexipharmics !”

“ as



“ as good title to be so, as any thing  
 “ which is not actual fire. And for its  
 “ *allaying inflammations*, that may be done  
 “ by the subtilty of its parts, dividing  
 “ and discussing so far the obstructed hu-  
 “ mours, that they either perspire, or are  
 “ taken up again into circulation by the  
 “ reflux blood.”

Philosophy stands neuter in this debate.

Having thus given a pretty full and particular account of a few Cases, which have come before me from the *limited time*, which I had assigned myself, *viz.* from July 1772, to December 1773, it may perhaps satisfy the curiosity of some, to be acquainted with my reasons for giving this medicine, not only in a disorder in which I had neither ever seen, heard, or read of its being given; but also in a quantity so unusually large, as well as so little diluted.—Will it ever be imputed as a crime, to vary or exceed the line of common (a) practice?

(a) Dr. LANGRISH observes, that “ Too much cre-  
 “ dulity

"dulity in matters of phyfic has been a principal  
 "cause of the slow advancement of that art. An ab-  
 "solute resignation to the opinion of any man, how  
 "great soever, without taking proper pains to judge,  
 "examine, and search into the truth of it, is a slavish  
 "submission, and very unbecoming a rational crea-  
 "ture."

"Let great *Authors* (says Lord BACON) have their  
 "due; but so as not to defraud *Time*, which is the  
 "author of authors, and the parent of truth."

## REASONS

## R E A S O N S

Inducing me to make Trial of  
Tinctura Guaiacina Volatilis in  
the acute Rheumatism.

**T**HE ample experience I had of the utility of Volatiles, in the latter stages of other acute and inflammatory disorders, in which a viscid and fizy disposition of the fluids was apparent, left no doubt with me, that they might be beneficial also in the acute Rheumatism, where there was no discernible difference in the state of the blood. Of their great utility in other inflammatory disorders, in the Pleurisy for instance, I had abundant proof; if so, what should forbid their use

use in a complaint, where the state and appearances of the blood are perfectly similar? and in a disorder too, where the fever is less dangerous, as, according to Dr. Sydenham, "it is apt to go off of itself."

And with regard to the Gum in the composition of this medicine, if it hath any efficacy in allaying the pains; or may at all be considered as having a specific quality in the chronic, no good reason could be assigned, as far as appeared to me, why it should not also be given in the acute Rheumatism. Having thus weighed matters, many years ago, in my own mind, I determined to make the experiment; which turned out agreeably to my expectations and previous reasonings; and with what manifest advantage I have continued it ever since, let the reader judge for himself, from the Cases above recited. Facts, and not Theories, must determine this matter.

No dispensatories, with which I am acquainted, ever speak of the dose exceeding



ing two drachms (b), i. e. half the quantity in which I have directed it. Few, if any,

of

(b) I cannot omit observing here, that the anonymous compiler of a little book, intitled, *The London Practice of Physic*, hath, in a second edition, lately published, added a table of the doses of medicines, in which he puts down Tinct. Guaiac. Vol.  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss. ter die. Whether this table was added to the former impression, I have had no opportunity of knowing. I rather imagine not. My reasons for thinking so are, (it would give me pain to do the author the least injustice) because in no part of the book is any mention made of the *How*, or *When*, it is to be thus given: and farther, from his fixing the dose of the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. at so low a rate, as from gutt. xx. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ii. Whereas these two medicines, being made with the very same spirit, no one, it is probable, who had been accustomed to give the one in the quantity of half an ounce, would think of giving the other in a less proportion, on fitting occasions. I have frequently directed Tinct. Valerian. Vol.  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss. in two ounces of common water, even to ladies, of no very robust constitutions, affected with nervous and hysteric complaints; to some, every six hours, to others twice a day, with the greatest benefit.—A gentleman, who was lately seized with a trembling in his hands, in a morning, which disabled him from holding his pen, was perfectly cured by taking the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. as mentioned above, in a very little time, without the least return

of them carry it so high. Geoffroy, indeed, says, his Tincture of Guaiacum may be given to half an ounce. Now that is made with Sp. Vin. rectificatissim. not with Sp. Vol. Aromat. — Nor is he so minute as to mention, to what degree he diluted it.

During the earlier prosecution of my medical studies, I had never seen it direct return of the complaint. It may even be given to the quantity of an ounce, or more. For thus I have, in several late instances, given the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. without the least inconvenience; but it is unquestionably a much more prudent method to direct it, as I have generally done, in divided doses.

While I am upon this subject, I may just mention, that the Balsam. Guaiac. the utmost dose of which, is here said to be two drachms, may be safely carried higher occasionally. It is usual with me also to give the Balsam. Traumat. to the quantity of half an ounce every six hours: whereas this writer mentions two drachms, as being the full dose.

These things are hinted to encourage a more effectual method of practice, to dispel any timidity in administering these, or such-like medicines, when directed, and to answer the same intention, with which the book professes to be written, for the use of younger practitioners.

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rected otherwise than in drops (so it stands in most writers) or a tea-spoonful at a time at most.

I could not therefore but be surprised, afterwards, whilst I was attending Guy's Hospital,—in the years 1754, 1755, and 1756, to find it daily given to the quantity of half an ounce.

It was first introduced there, according to the best information I could get, by the late Dr. Munckley; and might possibly be occasioned by the following circumstance. Mr. Girle, an eminent surgeon, had been for a long time afflicted with a Sciatica(c), or Hip-Gout;

(c) Mercurials, antimonials, and opium have all along been recommended for the cure of, and given in this obstinate complaint. Dr. FOTHERGILL, in the 4th vol. of the *Medical Observations and Inquiries*, published so long ago as 1771, prefers the following manner of giving them in this disorder, assuring us, “That he hath found it of singular service, after various other medicines and operations, recommended for the cure of this complaint, had been used to very little purpose.”

R Calom. levig. gr. x.

Conserv. ros. q. s. f. pil. x. non deaur.

Capiat j. omnia nocte superblando haust. seq.

R Aq.



Gout; for the removal of which he had taken this tincture, for a great length of

H 2

time,

R Aq. alexet simp. ʒ iſs.  
 — alexet ſpir. ʒ iſs.  
 Vin. antimon. gut. xxx.  
 Tinct. Theb. gut. xxv.  
 Syr. ſimp. ʒj.

“ If, continues the Doctor, the pain does not abate,  
 “ by the time this quantity is taken, I increaſe the doſe  
 “ of *calomel* to two grains one night, one the next, and  
 “ thus proceed alternately. When the pain abates,  
 “ the anodyne and antimonial are gradually leſſened;  
 “ perhaps omitted every other night, or wholly dropped.  
 “ I have ſeldom met with a genuine *ſciatica*, but has  
 “ yielded to this proceſs in the ſpace of a few weeks, and  
 “ has as ſeldom returned.”

Now, I have hitherto purpoſely omitted making any remarks upon, or ſo much as hinting at, what hath occurred to me in ſeveral inſtances on purſuing the ſame method; and ſhall here only barely ſuggeſt, that to perſons of robuſt habits (ſuch I have generally found thoſe who have called for my aſſiſtance, I prefer giving mercurials once or twice a week, as Dr. RADCLIFFE, MEAD, &c. had done before me, in pretty large doſes, joined with the more draſtic purgatives, and, on the intermediate days, ſuch medicines as are in common uſe, among which the *Guaiacum* is certainly not the leaſt efficacious. It is not without reluctance that I expreſs my diſſent from Dr. FOTHERGILL on this head, and, perhaps, we may only in opinion, not in reality differ; as the propriety  
 of



time, but to no purpose. Wearied out with the pain, he applied to Sir Edward Hulse,

of my practice may be founded on a difference in the habits of the patients merely. But be that as it may—No other apology can be necessary than what I offer in the Doctor's own words. "While I pay great deference, not only to the experience of my brethren of the faculty, but even to their opinions, they will not wish me to give up my own implicitly."

I have said above, that I had purposely omitted taking any notice respecting either what Dr. FOTHERGILL had recommended for the cure of the sciatica, or more especially the reason given for, and the authority on which he seems to found part of his practice in this disorder, hoping that either he himself would ere this have discovered, or that some of his brethren at least of the *Medical Society*, before whom his paper was read, (22d of August 1768) would have admonished him of his oversight.

"The anodyne above directed, saith Dr. FOTHERGILL, has other properties than that of an opiate merely. Like as in DOVER's famous powder, the anodyne in this composition, when duly proportioned, restrains the antimonial from exerting its usual efficacy on the stomach and first passages, and conducts it to the remotest parts of the circulation, rendering it an useful and efficacious medicine in many painful disorders."

Now DOVER's powder contains not a single particle of an *antimonial*. Nor can I possibly account how

Mulse, who asked him, what he had done for himself? On being informed that he had only taken a tea-spoonful of this Tincture; he desired him to continue his medicine, but, instead of taking it by tea-spoonfuls, the ordinary and common quantity, to take table-spoonfuls; which he did accordingly, and was thus effectually cured.

how the Doctor came to make this mistake, much less how the *Medical Society*, before whom we are informed this paper was read, could permit such a circumstance to pass unnoticed; and to continue from that time to this, even in a succeeding impression of this volume, without any alteration. Willing to make every favourable allowance, I have been inclined to think we must certainly mean two different powders, or that DOVER himself had made some alteration respecting this powder before his death. But nothing of this kind appears. On the contrary, in the very chapter where the composition is given, and which I have inserted above (see note d. page 23, 24,) Dr. DOVER informs us, that in the former editions [the 4th is before me, nor have I ever had access to any other] he had made a considerable omission; but suggests not the least hint that he either had made, or wished to make, the least alteration in his powder.

Upon the whole, had the Doctor said, and this perhaps may be all his meaning, "like as the opium in DOVER's powder restrains the ipecac, &c. so doth it in this composition restrain the antimonial," &c. All then would have been natural and easy, and every ambiguity avoided.

— So much for its introduction into that Hospital.

As was very natural, I paid a close attention to the *manner* of giving, as well as to the effects of a medicine, which then appeared so extraordinary.

It was at that time constantly ordered to be taken twice a day, in half a pint of barley-water, in the chronic, but never in the acute Rheumatism. And from an authentic testimony, which I have by me, bearing date November 7th, 1772, it appears unquestionably, that it had never been given there in the *acute*, though its use had all along been retained; and its safety and great utility, in the *chronic* Rheumatism, acknowledged in the fullest manner.

Many persons found a great difficulty, in taking the tincture in so large a menstruum, as half a pint. The quantity was more objected to, than the medicine itself: and this circumstance alone, I apprehended, occasioned it to be rejected more frequently, than it would have been, had the medicine been comprised in a much less compass. This was often the case; and this circumstance, with the farther view of retaining, as much as possible, the volatile part of the  
medicine,



medicine, determined me to take the first opportunity, after I had left the House, of reducing the quantity of the diluent, and to make the whole as compact as possible.

After gradual and repeated experiments, I had the happiness to find, that the watery part might, with great ease and safety, be lessened more than one half: and for many years past, have never directed the medicine in more than three ounces of barley, or common water, which is six times the quantity of the medicine itself, but frequently in less than even that quantity.

By the testimony referred to above, it also appears, that this medicine is now given, in Guy's Hospital, in about a gill.

The following Cases will shew satisfactorily, that there are persons, and not a few, who can take it, with great facility, much less diluted.

———, servant in a gentleman's family in town, of a tall, thin, leucophlegmatic habit, had, for some days before I saw her, a violent Rheumatic pain,

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(so it was called) affecting more especially one side of her face; so that she had little ease in the day, and in the night the anguish was intolerable. She was costive, and complained, moreover, of great pain in her stomach.

A full table-spoonful of the Tincture (generally supposed to be half an ounce) was given her, in the presence of the family, in four spoonfuls of common water; which she took without any difficulty, and which soon eased, a good deal, the pain at her stomach.

In half an hour's time the medicine was repeated, exactly in the same way; which, in a few hours, intirely removed the pain in her stomach, and not long after the Rheumatic pain in her face also.—One in the family, seeing how it succeeded, took the medicine on her own accord, just as above, and cured herself of the same complaint in a very few hours.

A lady, whom no one could suspect of accustoming herself to cordials, or hot liquors,

quors, complained of universal coldness, more especially at her stomach, and also of an acute pain in her gums, and one side of her face. She was costive, and the circulation appeared much too languid.

The medicine was given exactly as in the last Case. On taking the first quantity, she perceived no warmth at her stomach. All the warmth she experienced was in her mouth, as she expressed it. On giving a second dose, an hour afterwards, she felt a genial warmth universally; and passed the night much more free from pain. Not willing however to rest the cure on this medicine alone, the Bark was directed; and in a day or two all her complaints ceased.

These instances may suffice, should they answer no other purpose, to convince us, that the medicine is a perfectly safe one, when the Cases are proper, even when diluted to no greater degree. But should any one contend here for the necessity of greater dilution, it would seem an immaterial circumstance, whether this be done at  
the

the very instant of taking the medicine, or at proper intervals afterwards.

After what hath been advanced above, it is something surprising, that a medicine, which hath been in daily use for a great number of years in one, (and in one only) of our public Hospitals, should on no occasion have been prescribed by the physicians of that house, in what is called their *private* practice. No instance, at least, could be produced, of its having been directed abroad, after a most diligent search through the town, in the year 1772. Nay, some of the oldest Apothecaries, and of the most extensive practice, had acknowledged, they could not remember (d) ever

(d) It is but justice to Dr. BROCKLESBY, to add, that, (unimpressed by the words of his predecessor in the army) "He gave daily, in the military hospitals, " the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. from half an ounce to six " drachms, diluted in two quarts of well-boiled gruel, " in the *cold* Rheumatism." And I have been credibly informed, he hath, on some occasions, done the same *out* of the hospitals. But let it be observed here, that I have given four times that quantity in the same space of time, as will appear in some of the subsequent Cases.

Dr. MEAD,

ever to have seen or heard of its having been so prescribed.

The following Cases will not only shew to what degree this medicine may, on some occasions, be given, and how little diluted (e), but disclose also what was possibly

Dr. MEAD, in his tract on *Pains in the Joints*, after recommending dulcified Mercury, &c. adds, "In the intermediate days of purging, the proper medicines are such as are diuretic and laxative at the same time. Of this class, I give the preference to the Volatile Tincture of Gum-Guaiacum, or the Balsam of Guaiacum."

(e) I may mention here, that there seems to be no occasion to reduce the diluent any farther. From two to three ounces, seems to be the proper medium, for such subjects, at least, as have appeared in the Cases themselves. It may be taken in this way without difficulty, is easiest retained in the stomach, and seems in general, sufficiently compact. But it ought to be observed farther, that in the variety of Cases which must occur, circumstances will greatly vary, and no restriction ought to be laid upon the discretion of the physician.

For at the moment I am writing, there is a lady, an arthritic patient of mine, whose delicate and irritable



sibly little expected, but what is unquestionably

table constitution will not even bear a single drachm of the medicine under consideration, as I am well assured, without exciting the greatest ruffle and commotion. But I say this in perfect reliance on the information; not daring, after the account I had received, to give it even in the smallest quantity. But this should form no reasonable objection to the medicine; for the bark itself cannot always be taken in intermittents. I mean not, however, to draw a comparison betwixt the two medicines. All I would suggest, is, that an allowance must be made for that peculiarity of constitution, which may be met with in particular persons. — After I had, by other means, brought the swelling, which had seized her right hand, to its full maturity, and it became red and inflamed, being then in the most exquisite pain, seven ounces of blood were taken away; which had exactly the same appearance as in the pleurisy, or acute Rheumatism, though no fever was present. This gave the patient considerable, and almost immediate relief. The Sal. Volatile was then recommended, being almost the only medicine she could bear, as a cordial, and with the farther view of resolving (if that indeed be possible) the fizy disposition of the fluids. The bark, and the cold bath, were also advised. But whether the advice was in any respect followed, I have had no opportunity of knowing.

I could

questionably of infinitely more consequence.

I could not help reflecting, however, that even in this very delicate case, the Gum, and the Volatiles, might have been given with advantage in a separate state, had time been allowed me for farther trials.

Now the reader is going to be introduced to a few Cases in that formidable disorder, the Gout, which will probably give him some flattering hopes that much good may arise to mankind from having increased the powers, and extent of this medicine, by increasing the dose, making it more constant, and by more frequent repetition of it.

## THE

M. SAMUEL TAYLOR, of Chesham, in the County of Bucks, a Gentleman of a liberal and extensive Education, and of a liberal and extensive Knowledge of the Principles of Medicine, and the Practice of the Art, has been a good time of Health, till the year 1760.

## T H E G O U T.

**A**ND now the reader is going to be introduced to a few Cases in that formidable distemper, *the Gout*, which will probably give him some flattering hope, that much good may arise to mankind, from having increased the powers, and extent of this medicine, by enlarging the dose, making it more compact, and by more frequent repetitions of it.

## C A S E I.

**M**R. SAMUEL TAYLOR, of Clapton, aged 62, of a florid complexion, and thin habit of body, had enjoyed a good state of health, till the year  
1760,

1760, when he was instantly struck with a palsey, which affected all the right side; but from which he, in a good measure, recovered speedily, by the usual treatment, except that he was not bled; a very common, but oftentimes an injudicious practice, in paralytic cases. His right leg and thigh continued weak and feeble many years afterwards.

In March 1772, he was as suddenly attacked with a violent pain at his stomach; for the removal of which, whatever attempts had been made, all proved unsuccessful.

On the 12th, I found him in the most exquisite torture; free, indeed, from all fever, and, notwithstanding the greatness of his pain, his pulse was perfectly calm and regular. Though he had formerly been a *bon vivant*, there was no reason however to suspect, that his pains were occasioned by any injury done to any of the viscera. It was most probable, that his present disorder was of a gouty nature, having formerly had slight fits thereof.

His



His knees were in great pain, and much swelled afterwards.

Being very costive, an opening tincture with warm cordial draughts, were directed for him.

On the 14th, complaining with some degree of severity, that what was prescribed, did by no means assuage his pains, or reach his case, as he expressed it; three drachms of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. were directed, in two ounces and an half of barley-water, night and morning. This eased his pains something; but still insisting that it was not strong enough, on the 15th, half an ounce of the Tincture was ordered, diluted in the same manner. From this he found considerable relief, and persisted in the use of it till the 21st; when his pain returning in a slight degree he grew somewhat impatient, and earnestly requested, that the draughts might be made stronger. Finding they had no other tendency, than just to keep his body moderately open, his request was complied with; and the half ounce directed in two ounces of common water

water every six hours, and continued three days successively. This never gave him more than three motions (f) in twenty-four hours, intirely removed the pain in his stomach, abated both the pain and swelling in his knees, and had no inconsiderable good effect on his paralytic limbs. He never had the least return of the disorder at his stomach, from that day to this; and was so far from complaining of the draught being too strong, that he fre-

(f) Those who are accustomed to prepare this Tincture, will find, that sometimes near a fourth part of the Gum remains undissolved, unless carefully chosen; and if to this consideration we add, what is frequently lost by standing and otherwise, it is not probable, that, one time with another, much more than 25 gr. are contained in half an ounce of the Tincture.

So I thought, when this note was added to the first edition of this pamphlet. Since that time, several trials have convinced me, that much more of the Gum is, and remaineth dissolved, than I at that time imagined. Nay, I now believe, that the greatest part, if not the whole, is dissolved—when the Gum is good, and the Spirit fresh and good also.

A Dispensatory writer of some note calls this Tincture “an elegant one” and adds, “the Volatile Spirit excellently dissolving the Gum.”

I

quently

quently requested to have it made stronger; but his request was not complied with.

Let it be observed, this is not the first Case by many (g) in which I have for several years given this medicine in the Gout, with such success, as will appear in the following Cases. For I do confidently hope the Gout, if not curable in all cases, may certainly admit of much mitigation

(g) By way of date, to shew how long I have thus treated the Gout, and how perfect a crisis is sometimes obtained in that disorder, I put down the two following instances, being the earliest, which, at present occur to my recollection; in neither of which did it ever return, though it is now above seventeen years ago, that the patients were affected by it. For the present, I barely mention their names. The first, Mr. Hawtings, of Rumford, who hath, from his manner of living (to use his own expression) been *intitled* to it many times since; and his apothecary also, Mr. Frost, who seeing the good effects of the medicine on his patient, cured himself of it, by the very same means; nor did I ever hear of his having any return of it. Amongst his other encomiums on the medicine, he said laughingly, it should, from that time, stand in his books under the title of *Hausfus Podagricus*. This last gentleman died lately of a dropfy; and, indeed, it is a wonder he lived so long, considering how little care he took of himself.

and

and relief, whatever may have been advanced to the contrary, in more recent Cases especially; nay, I am not without hopes in the more inveterate: and proper trials shall be made in future, even were chalky concretions subfist.

The safety of the medicine I warrant, if given with skill and physical judgment.

That the cure shall be so *radical* (h) and

I 2

permanent;

(h) "It hath been already observed (saith Dr. CULLEN) that the Gout may be *entirely* prevented by constant bodily exercise, and by a low diet."—This is a very confident way of speaking, and the opinion being founded on reasoning *a priori*, is altogether precarious and uncertain. It is, however, a tolerably innocent opinion, may do good, and, in the general, can do no harm. Moderate exercise of the body, with temperate diet, is no doubt greatly conducive towards the prevention of the Gout. And so it is of the dropsy, asthma, consumption, fever, and almost every disorder that can be named.

But when the Professor in other places suggests to his pupils his opinion "of the impossibility of a cure of the Gout by medicine, that there is no other means of *radically* curing it, but by constant bodily labour and abstinence from animal food, that it would have been happy for gouty persons, if this opinion had been implicitly



permanent, that the disorder will never return, I cannot warrant. That cannot be done

“ plicitly received by them, and that the common practice of committing them to *patience* and *flannel alone*, “ is established on the best foundation ;” I own I am at a loss to conceive the great blessing of such doctrine to the tortured patient, or the instruction it conveys to his disciples.

He says, indeed, “ It would, perhaps, have been “ happy for gouty persons if this opinion had been implicitly received by them, as it would have prevented “ their having been so often the dupes of self interested “ pretenders.”—Why, truly, if they could be persuaded to be of the Professor’s opinion, it certainly would prevent their being *duped* in this way. But I should apprehend that a declaration of this kind, instead of making converts to the opinion, will only be considered, by the generality of arthriticks, as an open confession of the inability of those who make it, to render any effectual relief. The empiric will certainly avail himself of it, to support his superior pretensions to the knowledge of the properties of medicine, and to countenance his contempt of all regular practice.—In short, nothing more is wanting to fill up the measure of empiricism.—Have we not found out a remedy for the Gout?—Have we no hopes that a medicine *may* be found to afford effectual relief in the Gout?—Convince your patients then, if you can, that you are possessed of a remedy for the stone, consumption, dropsy, or asthma.

—But you will say, perhaps, we speak of a *radical* cure  
for

done in any other disorder whatsoever.  
 But before any great and considerable  
 I 3 im-

for the Gout. And have you the confidence to pretend to a radical cure of any of the above disorders?

The truth is, this expression itself of a *radical* cure, is used too ambiguously, and with no adequate idea affixed to it.—When we are told, that the Gout is not to be cured by any medicines whatsoever *radically*, are we to understand that no medicines are sufficient to extirpate it out of the constitution, so as that we may be as fully assured of its not returning, as we are that the small-pox and measles, once cured, will not return?—If so, they should have informed us; that this is their precise meaning. For, in that case, the assertion would not admit of being controverted.

This, however, seems not to be their meaning, as they would hardly assert the same of any of the above-mentioned disorders, which, when cured, are still liable to return. Do they then mean, that there is no medicine or medicines whatsoever which can give, in the Gout, as effectual relief as in the asthma, dropfy, stone, consumption, &c. tho' liable, like these, to return? Their assertion, in this case, is evidently untrue, and grounded only on their own experience of what relief hath been really afforded. For my own part, if I can be assured of the efficacy of any medicine in any disorder whatsoever, I am so experimentally in the Gout; of the efficacy of the guaiacum, musk, opium, volatiles, &c.

And

improvements in the medical art can be hoped for, several reigning prejudices, both

And this leads me to note something very like an *inconsistency* in Dr. CULLEN's observations on this subject. Although he inclines to think "That no medicine for curing the Gout hath been found, but that all hitherto offered have been either useless or pernicious," yet, towards the latter part of his chapter on the Gout, (as if he had forgot his own assertion in the beginning of it) he mentions and recommends much medicinal apparatus in the Gout. Thus, to prevent paroxysms becoming more frequent, blood-letting is directed—bleeding by leeches as still more proper.—Warm-bathing and emollient poultices to moderate inflammation, Blistering also as an effectual means of relieving and discussing a paroxysm of the Gout. Stinging with nettles is also mentioned. Burning with moxa or other substances. Camphire and aromatic oils.—It is true, the Doctor has always some cautionary drawbacks of danger attending the application of these. But the amount of the whole (unless we suppose all that is said to be nugatory) is, that they may all be employed with advantage, if applied with judgment and medical discretion. On the abatement of paroxysms, opiates are recommended as safe and advantageous, especially to persons advanced in life. After the paroxysms, for discussing the swelling and stiffness in the joints, the flesh-brush is advised.—So much for the treatment of the regular Gout.

Now

both amongst medical persons and others,  
must be removed, to pave the way for farther

Now for the irregular. And first of the atonic. Cold bath, bitters, and Peruvian bark may be employed. Iron in very large doses, aromatics, gentle and frequent vomits, and proper laxatives; blistering the lower extremities may be useful, and issues as a supplement to the disease.

With respect to the retrocedent Gout, the free use of strong wines, joined with aromatics or ardent spirits, even in a large dose. In more moderate attacks, ardent spirits impregnated with garlic or *assa foetida*, or a solution of the last in volatile alkali. Opiates, (mark, I beg) are often an *effectual* remedy, and may be joined with aromatics, as in the elect. thebajc. or with volatile alkali and camphire. Musk has likewise proved useful in this disease, &c. &c.

When the Gout in its retrocession affects the lungs, it is to be *cured*, we are told, by opiates, by antispasmodics and blistering. When it affects the head, producing pain, apoplexy, vertigo or palsy, blistering the head, and in some cases the extremities, together with aromatics and the volatile alkali may be used.

In the *misplaced* Gout, blood-letting and such other remedies as would be proper in an idiopathic inflammation of the same parts. —

To this account, I will just add, that even with respect to *preventing* the Gout, the Doctor recommends not only as innocent and useful, but even as necessary, the



ther success; and some of them are of such a nature, that I choose not to mention them in this place.

That I may not appear too sanguine in those confidential hopes which I have expressed, give me leave to quote a memorable passage, from the most capital Writer that later ages have produced—"But the  
 " radical cure of the *Gout* is yet a secret; nor do I know when, or by  
 " whom, it will be discovered. I hope,  
 " nevertheless, that I have contributed,  
 " in some degree, to the good of mankind by this treatise, by faithfully

the following medicines; aloetics, rheubarb, magnesia alba, or flowers of sulphur.—But, how needless such a caution is upon the Doctor's hypothesis, or with what consistency it is here introduced, let the reader judge, upon comparing it with the following declaration, "I  
 " am firmly persuaded, that any man who early in life  
 " will enter upon the constant practice of bodily exercise, and abstinence from animal food, will be preserved *entirely* from the disease."

" pointing

" pointing out those rocks, whereon my-  
 " self and many others have split, subjoin-  
 " ing likewise the best method of cure,  
 " which I have hitherto discovered, which  
 " is all I promise; though, after long  
 " consideration, I *cannot help thinking, that*  
 " *such a remedy will be found out hereafter;*  
 " and if ever this should happen, it will  
 " *betray the ignorance of the theorists (i),*  
 " and clearly shew how notoriously they  
 " are mistaken in the knowledge of the  
 " causes of diseases, and in the medi-  
 " cines they give to cure them. We  
 " have

(i) So thought this great writer. Dr. DUNCAN, on  
 the contrary, in his preface to his *Observations on Mer-*  
*cury*, useth the following language;—" Theory in me-  
 " dicine is principally despised by two sets of practitio-  
 " ners, the *ignorant* and the *lazy*. The last are unwil-  
 " ling, and the first are unable to acquire the know-  
 " ledge of it; and amidst all their boasted contempt, it  
 " will be found, that they principally differ from others  
 " in implicitly adopting whatever opinions they first  
 " receive."

“ have a plain proof of this in the *Peruvian* bark ; the best specific in intermittents : for, how many ages had the most acute physicians spent in searching into the causes of intermittents, and adapted such methods of cure as were

“ receive.”—But when we consider that, of the many theories which have been spun out with such a loss of time, scarce one hath been confirmed by success in practice, and most of them been found to mislead the practitioner, we shall be justified in pronouncing theory—mere theory—in medicine at least, equally dangerous with quackery itself ; and, instead of having advanced, (which it ever boasts of) to have retarded, more than any other thing, the improvement of medical knowledge. Fond of his fancies, the theorist, while he pursues these with an unremitting eagerness, *lazily* practices in the common routine ; or, if he venture his reasoning into practice, it is generally with such a conceited confidence of their conclusiveness, that fact itself will hardly convince him of his error ; nor can ill success, and even the dictates of humanity, which are sacrificed to his vanity, prevail upon him to alter his practice in the least. Is there not more hope of the empiric, than of him ?—In contrast to the opinion of Dr. DUNCAN, as expressed above, I shall take the liberty to subjoin the sentiment of one, whose authority, perhaps, may have more weight with him than SYDENHAM’S. “ To oppose  
“ mere theory—to the result of a long and painful ex-  
“ perience

“ were best suited to their several theo-  
 “ ries? But how little honour these me-  
 “ thods did to the theories whereon they  
 “ were founded, appears from a late in-  
 “ stance in the practice of those, who,  
 “ ascribing the various kinds of intermit-  
 “ tents to the redundancy of different hu-  
 “ mours in the body; ordinarily attempt-  
 “ ed the cure by altering and evacuating  
 “ these humours; which succeeded ill  
 “ with them, as is manifest from their  
 “ failure, but especially from the more

“ perience—is a manner of writing more fitted for dis-  
 “ putations in a *school* of medicine, than for the in-  
 “ struction of a practical physician.”

Such are the remarks made on Dr. DUNCAN's opi-  
 nion respecting the advantages of theory, as they stood in  
 some former editions of my book, for which I am thought  
 by that writer, not to have treated him *with all the leni-  
 nity he could have wished*. Let the reader judge. I shall  
 only ask, could Dr. DUNCAN have felt for any thing  
 there said in censure of the mere theorist in medicine,  
 had he not taken the character to himself?—Nor would  
 he have represented me as “ employing much of that  
 “ theory which I pretend to despise,” had he properly di-  
 stinguished betwixt *reasoning* from facts, or observations  
 on Cases, and mere *theorizing*.

“ success-



“ successful use of the bark ; by the help  
 “ of which, if given in a proper manner,  
 “ we commonly answer the end effec-  
 “ tually, without regarding those hu-  
 “ mours, diet, or regimen ; unless the pa-  
 “ tient be unnecessarily *kept in bed*, whilst  
 “ he is taking it; in which case, however,  
 “ so efficacious is this medicine, that it  
 “ seldom fails curing the patient, not-  
 “ withstanding this inconvenience of in-  
 “ creasing the disease by the *warmth of*  
 “ *the bed*. In the mean time, till the  
 “ *radical cure of the Gout be found out*,  
 “ (which all physicians, and myself in  
 “ particular, *ought to wish for*) I intreat  
 “ the reader to receive this little treatise  
 “ in a favourable manner; but if he  
 “ should not, I am so well acquainted  
 “ with the tempers of mankind, that it  
 “ will be no great disappointment to me;  
 “ and I know my duty so well, that I  
 “ shall not be discouraged thereat.” —

Thus speaks the Oracle to modern ages!  
 brought over from ancient Greece to  
 Great Britain, where it now utters its pro-  
 phecies, and is consulted by all the civi-  
 lized

lized nations in the world! and, inspired by nature, it will continue speaking to all future ages!

This passage, long ago, deeply impressed my mind. A specific in the Gout! That *Approbrium medicorum* for such a number of ages! Could the wise Sydenham entertain so visionary a hope? So it was. And yet he was not the wild Visionary, or aerial Theorist. But perhaps he might speak the wishes of his heart, rather than the dictates of his understanding, as no man ever possessed more benevolence.

The real case seems to be this, and the passage itself shews, that he had in his eye the Bark, that great specific in intermittents; which led him to hope, that some providential event, or some experiment, might, at one time or other, bring to light a specific for the Gout also. The disputes among physicians, in his day, had well nigh dismissed the Bark from the *Materia Medica*, with the ignominy of being pernicious, or useless at least; and doomed it to the unworthy fate of many  
other

other valuable medicines, which are now suffering hard durance in some neglected corner of the apothecary's or druggist's shop. He had just rescued it from this vile treatment, before he gave the finishing hand to his fine Treatise on the Gout, by exhibiting both its innocence, and its eminent medicinal qualities in his own practice, calling loudly upon the physicians in his time, to give it in a more free and liberal manner; for which he, and no one else, deserves the title of the father of this specific, except you will allow the honour of it to the man who barely peels the Bark, in the mountains of Peru. Had he not rescued it from this intended disgrace and oblivion, and taught its use, this *magnum Dei donum* had been lost for ever.

This odious effect, however, did follow, *viz.*—While rival, and selfish physicians were contending about the matter, Dr. Sydenham lost the honour of such a noble improvement; and the Faculty the credit it would have done them, of coming from one of their own body. But the

the note below will gratify the curiosity (k) of some readers, and excite the indignation of others, who may have any regard

(k) Dr. BAKER, in his enquiry into the Epidemic Fever, after observing, that by the common method of giving medicines, in trifling and insufficient doses, good ones are but too often brought into disrepute, the intention of the *physician* frustrated, and the patient's expectation disappointed—acquaints us, that *physicians* ran into this error formerly, with relation to the *bark*, through an over cautiousness; and that Sydenham was the first that broke through this constraint, and ventured to give it in large doses. I have a letter of his (he adds) in manuscript, now before me, wherein he says, “ I have had but few trials, but I  
 “ am sure, that an ounce of *bark*, given between the  
 “ two fits, cures, which the *physicians* in London, not  
 “ being pleased to take notice of in my book, or not  
 “ believing me, have given an opportunity to a fellow,  
 “ that was but an *apothecary's* man, to go away with  
 “ all the practice on *agues*; by which he has got an  
 “ estate in two months, and brought great reproach on  
 “ the faculty.” This letter was writ in October 1677, which falls in so exactly with the time of Talbor's first appearance as a practitioner, (for we have an account of his being in France in 1679) that SYDENHAM must certainly allude to him; and it appears from hence, that SYDENHAM was the person who struck out the method of giving an ounce of *bark* between the fits,  
 instead



gard to the honour of the Faculty, and the general interest of mankind.

instead of a drachm or two, which was the usual dose before that time; which method Sir ROBERT TALBOR has generally hitherto had the credit of, and for which he was knighted by King Charles the Second.

It were to be wished, for the benefit of mankind, that *physicians* would imitate SYDENHAM's practice more than is usually done, in this particular; since there is no possibility of discovering, except by this means alone, how far the powers of medicines extend.

GEOFFROY informs us, (without the least notice of our SYDENHAM) that Lewis XIV. that great patron of the useful, as well as the polite arts, purchased of Sir ROBERT TALBOR, or TALBOT, knighted by Charles the Second, his secret manner of giving the bark; and ordered large quantities to be bought up for the use of his hospitals. He adds farther, that he gave it not by scruples or drachms, "sed ad uncias & libras ascen-  
"debat."

## CASE

## C A S E II.

**JAMES HARVEY**, a joiner, of Stoke Newington, aged twenty-seven, of an athletic constitution, and complexion rather pallid, was, on the 6th of January, 1773, seized with an acute pain in his right ankle, all on a sudden, as he sat by the fire side. He had before that enjoyed a good state of health for many years, and till the very moment his ankle became affected, thought himself, and was thought by every one else, in perfect health, and had gone through his usual labour on that day.—Before morning the pain shifted with great violence to the toes of the left leg, on which the swelling and pain of the right ankle considerably abated.

The 8th, he was attacked with a looseness which continued two days, and reduced him very much.

K

The

The 10th, the pain flew to his left knee; and on the 12th, when he came to me, it remained there, but principally affected his left hand, which was extremely red and angry, and swelled to a considerable size, disabling him from any kind of work.

His pulse was low, weak, and rather quick, tongue white, urine turbid, high-coloured, depositing a considerable sediment. I directed for him the Tincture, which was taken six nights running. On the 8th, the pain, swelling, and redness of his hand were much abated, and he was in every respect so much relieved, that he spoke with seeming confidence of being able to return soon to his usual labour.

I then advised him to take his medicine twice a day, which he did for three days; and on the 21st, he thought himself perfectly well, and returned to his work, which he prosecuted without much impediment. Meeting with him by accident, February 6th, he informed me he had some slight returns of his complaint, which chiefly affected his right knee and ankle; and was desirous of taking his medicine

dicine again. I advised rather to take an ounce of Bark leisurely, and a spoonful of Spirit. Vol. Arom. at bed-time; with which he complied, and has remained well ever since.

### C A S E III.

**M**R. M'ENNA, a publican, in the 50th year of his age, an athletic, well-made man, of a florid complexion, whose situation in life exposed him to live rather freely, had been subject to the Gout the last eight years. He had a severe attack in his feet, the severest he had ever experienced, on the 2d of May 1773. I saw him on the 18th; the medicine was given him that night, and the next morning. In the evening (though before unable to move from his seat) he met me with expressions full of gratitude and astonishment; saying, that he was so far from expecting a cure for the Gout, that



he scarce believed he should have found even any relief.—He was requested to continue his medicine twice, or once a day, at least, for a little time, and then to follow it with the bark and the Cold-bath. But whether any part of the advice was complied with, I have had no opportunity of learning from himself, but have lately been credibly informed, he is in perfect health, and hath not had the least return of his disorder.

#### C A S E IV.

**W**ILLIAM GOODMAN, in Shore-ditch parish, aged 70; a remarkably stout, robust man, of a full habit, had been afflicted with the Gout above 25 years. He had had it (I take the account from his own mouth) in every part of his body, except his shoulders; in his head, stomach, toes, feet, knees, and hands.  
His

His feet and hands were swelled to so great a degree, as to be ready to burst; which disabled him from feeding, or turning himself in bed. He hath a thousand times wished for death; and on many occasions his case hath been concluded as desperate, and his death near at hand.

Early in the spring 1773, I found him unable to stir from his seat, or to do the most ordinary action without assistance. He took the medicine twice a day, for four days, just in the way I have so often related; and to his own amazement, and that of his acquaintance, went abroad after his usual occupation in a week's time; and I left him in as perfect health, and as free from any infirmity, as a man of seventy could be expected to be. Nor was the medicine attended with the least inconvenience in any respect.

I could have wished to have followed it with the Bark, if not with the Cold-bath. But certain strong prejudices, that the disorder was incurable, and that no mitigation, even of his present pain, could be hoped for, as they had well nigh precluded

any farther attempts to remove his complaints, so they determined him, as they have done many others, to use his own expression, to *rest* while he was *well*. And perhaps, considering his time of life, he was in the right.

### CASE V.

**R**ICHARD FOX, of Stoke Newington, a glazier and painter, aged thirty-three, of middle stature, and thin habit, had been afflicted with the Gout from nine years of age. His last attack was about the middle of May 1773, when a violent pain seized the great toe of his left foot, which in a little time ran through his foot, and up his leg to his knee, and continued in that limb for several days and nights, so that he could get no rest. Afterwards it began to swell to a violent degree, and grew red and fiery, which gave him  
some

some ease, but left that limb perfectly useless. From thence it removed into his other foot and leg, attended with partly the same effect; so that he was now totally disabled from walking. The pain, after some time, removed from his feet and legs into his hands and arms, and took the use of them away likewise.

In this situation he applied to his apothecary, who informed him his complaint was the Gout; and besides the medicines he thought it adviseable to give him, recommended Brandy and water, and Madeira, for his common drink. His directions were punctually complied with for some weeks. The patient finding no benefit, and growing daily worse and worse, makes a warm appeal to his apothecary; informing him very plainly, that if he could procure him no farther relief, it was impossible he could live under so desperate a disorder; for the pain now attacked his stomach, nor could he lie down in bed without great difficulty, owing to a tightness, or catching in his breast, as he expressed himself. His legs also lost their



former redness, and became remarkably swollen, shining, and dropfical. And the poor man was configned over to Patience and to Flannel.

In these deplorable circumstances, he was brought to me, supported by his friends. A more deplorable Case cannot fall to the lot of any man.

It seems unnecessary to add any thing farther, in relation to his Case; except, that his pulse was quick, but weak and low,—thirst considerable,—general habit costively inclined; and, lastly, debilitating night-sweats had of late pursued him.

In Cases complicated like this, it is oftentimes a difficulty, at what point to assail the enemy. We had here the (1) Gout evidently complicated with the Dropsy and Asthma. But a new difficulty arose. It was by no means improbable, that the deleterious quality of the lead (the patient having for many years wrought in paint)

(1) Multis in hydropicum morbum podagra concessit; quandoque vero in asthma: horum vero successio inevitabilis est.

might,

might, if not lay the foundation, at least, aggravate part of the complaints.

But, supposing that to be the case, (and this was a circumstance highly deserving of attention) it was an additional motive for giving the medicine, not knowing any thing of equal(m) efficacy in paralytic Cases, evidently arising from this cause. The  
Tincture,

(m) Thus I had expressed myself with respect to the virtues of the *Tinctura Guaiacina Volatilis*, in disorders arising from the effects of lead, in the first edition of my Cases, published in 1773, and without the least variation on that head in the succeeding editions. Dr. MOTHERBY, the compiler of a Medical Dictionary, published in 1775, under the article *Guaiacum*, hath represented this matter in the following manner; “ Dr. DAWSON frequently directs this tincture with great advantage, “ in Rheumatic and Arthritic complaints, in which “ Cases, and against Palsies from lead, he extols it “ as almost a specific.” — Now, Dr. MOTHERBY’s manner of expressing himself, may lead his readers into an opinion, I would not wish them to form of my judgment, with respect to the effects of this medicine, and which my own words are far from implying. I most willingly, however, acquit him of any intention to misrepresent; guardedly as I thought I had expressed myself on this head; nay, had been full and explicit to the contrary, either in Gouty or Rheumatic cases; having

Tincture, therefore, was given him in full  
quantity,

ving in one place said—" This advice will be necessary,  
" unless we could assure the world that we had under  
" our management a *specific* for this disorder. But to  
" this *ultimatum* of our wishes we are not yet arri-  
" ved."—Again—" But I repeat it, that we do not  
" mean to run a comparison betwixt the Bark and the  
" Guaiacum, or that we may place the same confidence  
" in the one as in the other, in the diseases to which  
" they are respectively applied, but rather to express  
" the *contrary*, in order to excite a proper degree of  
" caution in the use of the medicine, and a due atten-  
" tion to varying circumstances, &c. &c.—

Now doth this look like "*extolling* this tincture as  
" almost a *specific*" in Gouty or Rheumatic cases? —  
Far otherwise.

On no better ground is this said of "Palsies from  
" lead," as the reader will judge for himself from my  
own words, "not knowing any thing of equal effi-  
" cacy," being all the encomium I have passed upon  
the medicine in any part of the book, if indeed this may  
be called an encomium. Nor is there any farther refe-  
rence to the subject, except in the Case immediately  
succeeding, where mention is made of a person who for-  
merly dealt in paint, and had been accustomed to grind-  
ing colours.

But if it should appear, that I have expressed myself  
too strongly, and that I have been blameable in this  
respect, I have the satisfaction, at least, to find myself  
in good company. For Dr. FOTHERGILL, in the fifth  
vol,



quantity, in the presence of his friends,  
which

vol. of the Medical Observations and Inquiries, published afterwards in 1776, confirms what I had advanced, and almost in the same words. “ I know of nothing, “ saith he, that so effectually contributes to restore the “ use of the limbs, when impaired by these causes, “ [noxious particles of mineral poisons], as the liberal “ and constant use of the *Tinctura Guaiacina Volatilis*,” —But doth this amount to “ extolling the tincture as “ almost a specific ?”—I dare say no such thing was meant. In Cases of such obstinacy, as well as in Gouty and Rheumatic cases, both he and I, and all physicians are wishing for, and seeking after something of still greater efficacy ; something on which we may rely with greater security. Dr. FOTHERGILL adds, “ It may be given — with a little common sugar or “ honey, and then diluted with any weaker mucilagi- “ nous liquor, as thin gruel or barley water, or marsh- “ mallow tea.”—So it may, and in divers other ways. But I repeat here, that when it can be taken in common water alone (and there are not a few who can take it thus) as it is the most simple, so it is the most efficacious way of taking it.

Permit me to add here, that as Dr. MOTHERBY is not afraid to follow me in extending the usual insignificant dose of a tea spoonful or a drachm, to a table spoonful or half an ounce, so he might have added with perfect security, and, in some Cases, from half an ounce to—an ounce or more, as will appear from several passages in this pamphlet.



which he was desired to take leisurely. This gave him great relief at his stomach before the morning; and it was continued through the whole of his illness, at proper intervals, in the quantity of two drachms only, with a view of keeping the disorder at the extremities, and thus finally expelling it out of the habit. Cordial Confection and Volatiles, were directed at intervals, and his strength supported by generous diet. Blisters were applied; first, betwixt his shoulders, afterwards to his legs, and one on his left breast, the pain fixing there with great violence. By these means he grew better, though slowly; is now, and has been for many months, perfectly well.

Possibly, in the course of the cure, I might direct him a Lac. Ammon. mixture, with Oxymel and Volatiles; and, towards the latter end of the disorder, a decoction of the Bark with Confection, as my common way is; but whether I did or not, I cannot now tell, as in this Case I write from memory only.

CASE

## C A S E VI.

**W**ILLIAM CLARE, of Stoke Newington, aged 39, of a pallid complexion, thin, spare habit, and low stature, formerly dealt in paint; and in the year 1766, was first attacked with a fit, which lay in his bowels. I take this account from himself. By the assistance which was immediately procured him, the pain, which first seized his bowels, was, in no long time, translated to his legs. In about a month after, he had another attack, and was then advised to quit grinding colours, and to follow the farming business.

In half a year's time he was attacked again in his ancles, and hath had it ever since twice a year; sometimes in the spring, sometimes in the summer.

His last attack was about the middle of November 1773. On the 1st of December

I was sent for, and found him confined to his bed, and unable to stir almost a single limb, and in intolerable anguish. His wrists and knees, as well as his ancles, now swelled exceedingly, which they had never done on any former occasion. An acute pain also affected his right groin. The swellings were not red and inflamed, but glossy and shining. His pulse was quick,—tongue white,—thirst considerable,—urine high-coloured, thick, and deposited a lateritious sediment. He was, moreover generally costive; but, on the day I saw him, had two stools; on which account, after taking away seven ounces of blood, which had exactly the same appearance as in the Pleurisy or acute Rheumatism, gutt. xii. Tinct. Thebaic. were added to the Guaiacum-draught that night, and repeated twice in the same way the next day. On the 3d he had two motions, and nothing was given him on that day. The fourth day, the draught was ordered to be taken every night only, and without the opiate. But he found himself so well, it was taken but once.

He

He walked abroad the next day, and has followed his usual occupation ever since, in perfect freedom from all his complaints.

I have, in the strongest manner, recommended to him the Cold-bath; and can with the strictest truth affirm, that in the great variety of Gouty and Rheumatic cases, which have come before me, I never saw the least inconvenience from it; but, on the contrary, the greatest benefit. Nothing will so effectually prevent a relapse in either case, if they are to be considered as at all different. It is almost as much to be depended upon, as the Bark itself; and greatly to be lamented, that a most groundless prejudice too frequently obstructs its use in the intervals of gouty complaints.

For some time past he hath complied with my advice, and with such manifest advantage, as induces him to make use of the Bath, even in very severe weather.



CASE



## C A S E VII.

———, aged twenty, always active and temperate, had enjoyed a good state of health, till the latter end of the summer 1772, when she was suddenly seized with an acute pain in one foot, and the other was in a little time affected in the same way. Both swelled greatly, and were inflamed.

I saw her on the 4th day after the attack, when the family appeared almost as anxious to be satisfied about the nature of the disorder, whether it was Gout or Rheumatism, as about the event. After acquainting them, that the complaint was most certainly, what would generally be accounted a true Gout, they explained to me the cause of their anxiety, *viz.* their fears, lest the patient should become as great a sufferer by this cruel malady, as her parents and some of her relations had been.

This

This circumstance is barely mentioned, as rendering the Case less equivocal, if the Gout be indeed hereditary.

A repeated enumeration of particulars which seldom vary, and which as seldom convey much useful information, owing to our present imperfect knowledge of the nature or tendency of such appearances, may seem superfluous. I shall content myself therefore, in this instance, with saying, that on taking the Tincture twice a day, the patient recovered intirely in about a week or ten days without experiencing even that debility in the parts, so common a consequence of this disorder. A great itching ensued, and the skin peeled off.

This case was omitted on a former occasion, as it happened at some distance, and I had not time then to inquire into the state of my patient, whom I saw but once. While these sheets were at the press, I had the pleasure to receive certain information that the patient is now in perfect health, nor hath ever had the least return of her complaint.

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The

The following Letter, and the Case accompanying it, were transmitted to me in so obliging a manner, by Mr. Wilson, surgeon, in Alnwick, that I readily take this opportunity of laying them before the Public.

S I R,

**U**PON reading your Book of Cases on the acute Rheumatism and the Gout, which lately fell into my hands, I was determined to make trial of your method the first opportunity.

The ensuing Case of a gentleman in the Gout, was so severe, and the effect of the medicine so suddenly beneficial, that I hope an account of it will not be unacceptable.

I am,

S I R,

Your most humble servant,

JOHN WILSON.

Alnwick,  
Aug. 24th, 1774:

C A S E

## C A S E VIII.

**A** Gentleman betwixt fifty and sixty years of age, applied for my advice. He had been afflicted with the Gout in his feet, and at times in his stomach, for several years. But from February last, had scarce been tolerably easy four days together, in his stomach. He was naturally a stout man, of a full habit, and his face was of a deep purple hue: but his constitution was much impaired by the Gout; which hath rendered him so ill frequently, that he was not expected to live many hours, the pain being so severe in his stomach, attended with sickness, coldness and shiverings all over his body. He continued in this way from February last; at times indeed, tolerably easy, but never without some pain in his stomach, and which frequently became violent.

L 2

He



He applied to me June 25th, 1774, when extremely ill in his stomach. He had been bled that day. I did not see the blood, but was informed it was fizy, and he was also costive.

I directed two draughts for him, with half an ounce Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in each, one to be taken that evening, the other the next morning. The first gave him full and immediate relief in his stomach, and caused a free sweat and discharge by urine. The second dose procured a loose stool or two; and the next day his feet were pained. He hath told me since, that the first dose made him perfectly well. The medicine was continued twice a day for three days only, when being free from pain in his feet also, he left it off.

On the 25th of July, his complaint in his stomach returned, for which he took two doses of his medicine, which had the desired effect immediately.

He is now and then sensible of a slight uneasiness in his stomach; but it is so very slight, that he takes no medicine for it. And that return of his complaint, for which

which he took two doses of the medicine, was owing to an error in diet (n).

(n) The bare mention of the word Diet, one would think sufficient to excite in the Valetudinarian the disagreeable remembrance of the unmerciful manner in which he hath been restricted, in this respect, by Dr. CADOGAN's vague observations, and unwarranted assertions of the necessity, not of *temperance*, (this would have been readily allowed the Doctor) but of mere abstinence from particular kinds of food. A sufficient answer, however, to all that hath been advanced by him on that head, will be found in the following sentences of a certain writer. "The variety, and even contrariety of  
" circumstances observed of Gouty cases, make it apparent, that no kind of diet can be proper in all  
" Cases, either in the fit, or out of it: that one  
" person may require a temperate, [abstemious] another, a rich, strengthening, cordial one."

" But to go farther, a mode of diet, and many kinds  
" of food, which agree with one man, disagree with another. A kind of food, reputed hard of digestion,  
" shall sit lighter on the stomach, and agree better with  
" an Invalid, than another kind which is thought lighter  
" and easier to be digested. Some people labouring under  
" the Gout, have lived on high seasoned food; others  
" have never tasted any thing but the most simple aliments: and in a country where the Gout prevails more  
" than in any other, the inhabitants live almost intirely  
" on a vegetable diet. Mankind in a state of nature,  
" and strangers to culinary arts, are found to live healthy  
" either on flesh, vegetables, or fish, alone. The more  
" civilized

“ civilized nations, among whom the Gout prevails,  
 “ differ widely in their diet : yet under that diversity of  
 “ dishes, men, while they keep within the bounds of  
 “ temperance, are healthy and well.”

“ These observations — are sufficient to shew, that  
 “ reasoning on the property of alimentary substances,  
 “ like reasoning on the properties of medicines, from  
 “ experiments made on them before they enter the  
 “ body, is precarious and delusive. But if with these  
 “ observations it be farther considered, that in laying  
 “ down a regimen of diet for a patient, his accustomed  
 “ food and exercise, the course of medicine he is upon,  
 “ and many other circumstances which differ in different  
 “ people, are to be attended to, it will not only  
 “ authorize one to suspect, that the opinions which  
 “ have been advanced of this or that kind of food,  
 “ producing or preventing the Gout, and the rules of  
 “ diet directed to be observed in all Cases, are more  
 “ plausible than just ; but it will also incline one to  
 “ think, that some latitude may be safely allowed in  
 “ those articles of food, which are known by experience,  
 “ to agree with the patient, provided he be  
 “ but temperate in the quantity.” — So much for Dr.  
 CADOGAN’s doctrine, of abstinence, even from the common *condiments* in our daily aliment.

Dr. CULLEN contends much for the necessity of abstinence from all *animal* food ; nay, hath so great a confidence in this, as to be “ firmly persuaded, that  
 “ any man who early in life will enter upon the constant  
 “ practice of bodily labour, and of abstinence from animal food,  
 “ will be preserved *intirely* from the disease.” Is not this astonishing from one, who  
 supposes

supposes the Gout "to be a disease generally hereditary, and very often to depend upon original conformation?" What vegetables (should we travel in search of them from the furthest Indies, to the remotest parts of Caledonia) are to be found with properties adequate to the effect of curing the Gout; that is, on this hypothesis, of reforming the original structure and conformation of the body? Much less can we hope for such an effect, from the use of common esculents, the properties of which are universally acknowledged to be of a mild nature, and consequently of less powerful operation.—But the following note, from the above quoted writer, will serve to shew, what regard is due to the Professor's opinion, and to all such reasonings and restrictions on the article of diet, *a priori*.

"PROSPER ALPINUS, a physician highly celebrated by the great BOERHAAVE, resided some years in Ægypt. He gives an account, that the Ægyptians were a chearful people, and lived to a great age. They were averse to a variety of food, and generally drank water. Rice, bread, peas, milk, some esculent herbs and roots, dates, plantains, figs, apricots, cucumbers, melons, peaches, grapes, oranges, lemons, citrons and pomegranates, constituted the bulk of their diet. They eat little meat, and that, excepting among the poor, was generally mutton or fowls. He mentions also, that the Gout was no where so common as amongst those people; and that pains in the joints generally prevailed, attacking all sorts of people without distinction. *Neque continue arthritici quam plurimi homines, quales ibi existunt, reperiuntur.—Frequentissimi articulorum dolores continue sparsim per urbem vagantur, ac mulieres, eunuchos, &*



*" omnes absque discrimine invadunt & affligunt."*—He likewise observed, " that they were very often afflicted  
" with the stone, and with ulcers in the kidneys."

ALPIN. de Medecin. Egypt.

I shall conclude this note in the following memorable words of Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, " That which I call  
" *temperance*, says he, and reckon so necessary in all  
" attempts and methods of curing the Gout, is a regular and simple diet, limited by every man's experience of his own easy digestion, and thereby proportioning, as near as well can be, the daily repairs,  
" to the daily decays of our wasting bodies, &c."——

Should any one be desirous to see more on the subject of diet, I refer him, for the present, to a small tract by Dr. FALCONER, which contains much common sense, (the very best of physic) as well as medical knowledge.

END OF THE CASES,  
To the First and Second EDITION, &c.

REFLECTIONS.

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## REFLECTIONS.

**T**HESE few Cases, which I have now laid before the world, are all that have occurred to me, within the limits of that time, to which I have confined myself. Had they been more, the reader should have had more. At present, it seems needless to trouble the Public with any observations upon them. They have seen the operation of this particular medicine, and my general treatment, and are left to draw their own conclusions from the facts before them.

This one conclusion, at least, I should think, would be made by every one, whether a medical person, or not, That, if this medicine should come into general use,  
and

and produce a proportionable effect in this torturing disorder, the benefit to the Public would be immense. And these Cases, few as they are, may serve to shew it's great efficacy.

Many are the observations, which I have made, upon the Gout, and the above Cases have also afforded me some. But it may be prudence in a medical, as well as in other writers, to suppress some ideas which may occur to him, till the number and variety of the Cases shall realize his hopes, and confirm his observations; or give him occasion to change his sentiments; as all depends upon fact and experience.

Only thus much we may observe, that the Gout, as well as the Rheumatism, hath its variations, and its critical seasons; and that the *When* and the *How* this medicine is to be administered, is as carefully to be attended to in this, as in any other disorder; without descending to a more minute detail upon the subject.

No prudent person will therefore conclude, that the physician's art is precluded  
by

by this medicine, or be so wanting to himself, as not to look out for relief from those, on whose medical skill and ability he can best rely for advice. On the contrary, scarce any disorder requires it more. For if it should be (as is not improbable) nature's intention, in every fit of the Gout, to remove the malady, whether arising from the solids or the fluids, or the nervous system, what can be more dangerous, than rashly to *tamper* with it, and unseasonably obstruct her designs, by an undistinguishing use of the medicine, till farther experiments shall evince, whether it be seasonable at all times, and in every stage of this disorder?

This advice will be necessary, unless we could assure the world, that we had under our management a specific for this disorder. But to this *ultimatum* of our wishes we have not yet arrived.

Will the Bark be called a specific in intermittents? Certainly it will. But will it always answer, and alone? Is it never necessary to precede it with emetics, to accompany it with bitters, or to follow it  
with



with the Cold-bath? All then that can be rationally meant, when this noble medicine itself is called a specific in intermittents, is, that it is more infallible than any other remedy, and that on which we can place general confidence. But I repeat it, that I do not mean to run a comparison betwixt the two medicines, or that we may place the same confidence in the one as in the other, in the diseases to which they are respectively applied; but rather to express the contrary(o), in order to excite a proper degree of caution, in the use of the medicine, and a due attention to the various and multiform appearances this disorder sometimes puts on; without a careful attention to which, discredit will fall upon the best and most valuable medicines.

## I

(o) Is it not strange, that after this and many similar declarations by way of caution, that I should be considered by any writer, who gives but common attention to what he reads, as having recommended this medicine as “an almost *infallible* remedy?”—DUNCAN’S *Medical Cases*, p. 57.

I pretend not to know what the Gout is; whether it consists in an affection of the solids, or some indisposition of the fluids, or both. Nor is it material to tell the world, which of the various conjectural theories I am most inclined to adopt. And—

As to the distinction (p) of this disorder into sanguineous, bilious, and pituitous, which hath long obtained, it is to be feared, we have not sufficient grounds, to make a discrimination of this nature; and the only distinction needful to be attended to in practice, (the distinction is well

worthy  
 (p) Dr. SYDENHAM had distinguished the Gout into *regular* and *irregular*. Not content with retaining this distinction, Dr. CULLEN hath farther divided the *irregular* Gout into the *atonic*, the *retrocedent*, and the *misplaced*. And Dr. SCOT, following nearly the same system, hath, more lately, divided it into the following states or conditions, viz. *irregular*, *imperfect*, *regular* and *perfect*, *misplaced* and *retrocedent*. — But what availeth all this dividing and subdividing à le *Sauvages*?—Where is the utility of it in practice?—instead of enlightening, hath it not a manifest tendency to confound and bewilder the practitioner, and been a great obstacle to medical knowledge?

worthy of attention, being plain and simple, easily comprehended, and, as far I know, original also) is, an acute or chronic, a Gout *with*, and a Gout *without* a fever.

To search into the remote causes of this, as well as of many other disorders, will be but fruitless labour, because these do not fall under the cognizance of our senses; and considering the narrow limits of the human understanding, it would certainly be one proof of the physician's discretion, to content himself with observing the more immediate and visible symptoms of the disease; its approach and attack, its progress, state and declination, with its various indications, that he may learn to form the truest judgment, both as to the event of the disorder, and the best method of cure.

But suppose this knowledge were to be obtained, or that I had some new and favourite theory to give the Public, respecting the remote or immediate causes of this disorder, this, however, is no part of my present design.

I have proceeded upon a much humbler plan. Far from the audacious attempt of rising to the heights of theoretic fancy, I have confined myself in this treatise to the experiments which I have made on one particular medicine, with a view of enlarging its efficacy, and extending its use to arthritic complaints in general; in which idea are included both the acute and chronic Rheumatism, the Gout *with*, and *without* a fever.

Few things have so much hindered the progress of physic, as the insufficient doses, in which this and some other medicines are usually given. A deficiency in this respect had well nigh lost us the Bark. And it is much to be questioned, whether it hath not lost us the virtues we might have received from the Guaiacum; which was formerly considered as a specific in a different disorder. However, it was certainly used with great success formerly, and that it is now in less estimation, may perhaps be owing to this reason only.

Much,



Much, it must be acknowledged, is left undone, and many experiments, lie open to the attempts of others on this head. Mine have hitherto been chiefly confined to the Gum in its compound state with the Volatile(q). As I found them amicably joined together, I have not as yet been induced to separate them; but give it as a conjectural opinion, that, besides this compound medicine, much benefit might arise from the Gum in substance, the Balsam. Guaiac. Tinctures, and strong decoctions of the wood itself; at the conclusions of the fit in the acute Rheumatism or Gout, and more especially in tedious

(q) “ When volatile alkalious salts, or spirits” (says Dr. HUXHAM) “ are taken in large quantities, and “ frequently, even by persons in health, they bring on “ feverish heats, hæmorrhages, spongy, bleeding gums, “ stinking breath, rank urine, &c.—I have no doubt of a great variety of scorbutic Cases having occurred to the Dr. situated in a sea port town; but from a long and liberal use of Volatiles, I am persuaded, that the Cases and appearances above specified, ought not to be ascribed to the use of “ Volatile alkalious Salts or “ Spirits.”

tedious and chronic Cases, whether of the one or the other.

But whatever experiments of this kind may be made by the industry and attention of others, it will be altogether fruitless to apply any of the different preparations of this drug, in small and insignificant doses; as if we were handling poison, or prescribing Night-shade, Hemlock, or some of the more dangerous preparations of Mercury. On the contrary, they ought to be given liberally, so as to impregnate the blood and juices with them, and create an alteration in the arthritic habit.

And for our encouragement in experiments of this sort, which are no ways hazardous, we may observe, that of all the vast and numerous tribes of medicines, which present themselves to us in the *Materia Medica*, the Guaiacum seems to step forward from the crowd, with the most promising appearance, hath the fairest report, and the most creditable testimonials, if we have but the wisdom to do

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it

it justice in our future trials of its services.

And suffer me in passing, to drop this hint, that our wishes and inquiries, after something of still farther benefit to mankind in this disorder, are more likely to be crowned with success, by a much freer use of the many salutary medicines, whether of the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, which are in our possession, joined to the assistance which may be derived from chemical preparations, than from any new accession to the *Materia Medica*.

It is a common foible of human nature, to seek for that abroad, which may be found at home; and in the pursuit of shadowy expectations, from new discoveries, to lose advantages we are already possessed of. And ill shall we be prepared for any new discoveries, if, by spiritless and insignificant trials, the medicinal virtues of those already in our hands continue to escape our notice.

In vain have been the labours of a Linnaeus, the travels of a Banks and Solander;  
in

in vain shall we ransack the vegetable system in new worlds, since, whatever valuable discoveries may be brought to us, they must inevitably share the same unhappy fate with former ones; for whilst we thus conduct ourselves, their hidden virtues will escape us, for want of due and sufficient trials; serving only to crowd our shops, distract practitioners, or, at most, to enrich with exotics our gardens and hot-houses. Our curiosity may be thus gratified, even to luxury; but medicine receive not the smallest advantage from the acquisition.

I cannot forbear in this place, to use the words of an excellent writer, who, enumerating the obstacles to the improvement of physic, mentions giving *small* doses as one;—"for while physicians" (says he) "have been over cautious in their prescriptions, they have fallen into the inconvenience of doing the patient no service; and, to confess the truth, I suspect, they more generally err this way at present, while they order

M 2

" drachms



“drachms of plants for an infusion, where  
 “ounces would be more proper. On  
 “the other hand, mountebanks, and  
 “quacks, men of an intrepid mind, and  
 “invincible impudence, oftentimes make  
 “a cure, when the physician of probity  
 “fails.”—

This passage caught my attention many years ago, and hath occasionally recurred to my mind, during my experiments on this and some other medicines, not of a dangerous or deleterious quality—experiments made, not with a view of finding out some specious nostrum to be industriously concealed from public inspection, but to give the greater efficacy to my own prescriptions, in the fair and regular course of practice. And I now present the above sentiment to others, who may perhaps judge it as worthy of their attention, as many other things to be met with in medical writers.

Though I dare not presume to have made any very near approaches to a Specific,

cific (r), or to dignify the medicine with any such high title, yet, surely, the world will take kindly the having expressed good wishes to mankind; thinking it my duty, whenever there appears the least opening towards so desirable an object, to pursue it, till some insurmountable obstacle in the road, or extreme danger convince me, that such labour is in vain, and warn me to proceed no farther; and, if attempts to

M 3 make

(r) I have not dared to bestow upon the medicine a higher appellation, than that of an *aptitude*, and *accommodation*; words borrowed from another writer, on a different occasion—"Medicamentum materiae expurgandæ accommodatum."—Though an ingenious author is not shy, in declaring his belief,—"That the notion which has, and still does prevail among some physicians, that the doctrine of Specifics is groundless, and took its rise merely from ignorance in natural philosophy, is one obstacle to the advancement of physic."

He adds farther,—"I cannot help thinking, that the want of true and genuine philosophy ought rather to be imputed to those who deny, than to those who maintain the doctrine of Specifics; and that we might as well undertake to open all locks with one key, as purge all humours with one medicine."

make so great a discovery, should be charged solely to ambition; yet if these have proceeded upon medical principles, and been so cautiously conducted, that not the least harm hath arisen from them, in one single instance in my practice, they cannot justly be intitled to a severer censure, than what candour will say with regret, and envy with pleasure;

— *Magnis tamen excidit ausis.*

For Dr. Sydenham says, such a discovery is what he himself did, and all physicians ought to wish for.

There is some merit and humanity in keeping up the hopes of mankind, and not hastily consigning them over to Patience and to Flannel; for, as to the first, the proverb writes it, a Medicine proper only for a Mad Dog. And as to the other, its supposed utility in the Gout is very questionable, from this circumstance—that persons

persons who get abroad into the air the soonest, mend the fastest. (s)

*Nil desperandum.*

is a much better prescription, as it will prompt us to future inquiries. And who knows what the seperate, or united labours of many sensible practitioners, when roused to the proper exertion of themselves, may produce? Or, if their united art should fail, who can tell what assistance we may receive, if the *Religio Medici* will permit us to take into the account the *το θειον τι*, which mingleth itself with all human affairs? or that Providence, which, by its imperceptible and mysterious workings, hath already brought to light discoveries of the greatest importance, in the prevention or cure of disorders, by means which

M 4

we

(s) CÆLUSUS says, "The parts affected in the Gout should be exposed freely to the cold—*Obijciendumque frigori.*"

Doctor DOVER also adds, "Keeping the part warm is wrong; because it is *proprium caloris attrahere*, and does, beyond doubt attract gouty matter to the parts."



we call accidental ; and which, to mortify the vanity of human science, have been revealed to us by the instrumentality of the *ignorant and illiterate* (t) ?

But if the wisdom of Providence should not think proper to favour us with a discovery, and the art and inquiries of the numerous able practitioners should still fail us, in the investigation of a real Specific in the Gout, yet the support of our hope, with the renewal of our endeavours, upon the plan, on which I have hitherto proceeded, and which I have recommended to others, must be followed with some considerable advantage. If the full object of our wishes is not to be attained, yet, stimulated in this inquiry by hope, it may lead us on to such discoveries and improvements,

(t) What wonders hath not the old Grecian woman done by Inoculation, with the point of her needle, and our SUTTON with the point of his lancet ?—Do we not also owe the first knowledge of the Bark to the illiterate Indian, who taught its use to the Spaniard ?—Were not the virtues of the Guaiacum likewise, revealed to the Europeans by an Indian servant ? — and, held in such estimation, as to be sold, some time after, for seven gold crowns a pound ?

ments, as may, however, greatly reduce the sufferings of mankind from this severe disorder.

If we can abbreviate the fits, ease the pain, assist nature, and, along with this, strengthen the habit for the future; or, if by any prophylactic method, we can prevent the frequency of the fits, and perform all this with intire safety, and without the danger of inducing any other complaint; every humane person will congratulate mankind upon such advantages, though far short of a complete and radical cure.

For myself, were I conscious that I could reduce a tenth, twentieth, or even a much less proportion of human misery, arising from this disorder, my ambition, if not my wishes, would be fully satisfied; and, sensible of the inestimable benefit mankind must receive from such a diminution of misery, I should experience that pleasure from the reflection, which is preferable to the accumulation of the greatest wealth or private emolument.

But, to put an end to these few desultory reflections,

reflections, the whole of which, though not strictly medical, are yet not foreign to this one good purpose, of exciting others to pursue a similar method of improving the efficacy of medicines, in this and other disorders, by giving an edge to the instruments we are to act with; hoping to contribute more by this means to the benefit of mankind, than by any labours of our own.

III If I have appeared too sanguine in my hope of a radical cure in the Gout (u), or shewn too partial an attachment to the authority of the great Sydenham in such expectation, I trust the candour of the reader will excuse a predilection for this great author, when he reads the following quotations from Dr. Boerhaave, that celebrated physician of modern times,—“who frequently

(u) What may encourage the reader, as well as myself, with hope, is, this one strong circumstance, that these Cases, both in the Gout and the acute Rheumatism, though few, are not selected, or picked out of numbers, but are all taken as they rise in the course of my practice, and contain the *whole* from a *limited time*, viz. from March 1772, to December 1773.

" frequently perused him, and always  
 " with greater eagerness;" asserting, " that  
 " no physician, since the venerable Hip-  
 " pocrates, has written of diseases with  
 " so much accuracy:" and, " lamenting  
 " that few, if any, of the modern writers  
 " in physic, have attained to the perfec-  
 " tion of the ancients;" " I can only,"  
 adds he, " mention one great man, Thomas  
 " Sydenham, the ornament of England,  
 " and the Apollo of the art, whom I ne-  
 " ver consider, but my mind presents me  
 " with the genuine picture of an Hip-  
 " cratic physician, and to whom physic  
 " is so much indebted, that all I can say  
 " will fall short of his merit."

**The End of the REFLECTIONS,**  
 to the former Editions.

**ADDITIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL  
CASES  
IN THE  
GOUT,  
To SEPTEMBER 1774.

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CASE I.  
**M**R. THOMAS WRIGHT, of Hackney, aged 42, a tall strong-built person, of a fair complexion, sober and regular in his way of life, had formerly, at different times, suffered severely, by what was then called the Rheumatism, and other acute (v) diseases, and on that account lost great quantities of blood.

In

(v) “ Generally there precede many inflammatory diseases, such as pleurifies, quinsies, &c. says Dr. THOMPSON, “ before the Gout becomes perfect and “ regular.”—Again, “ the Gout makes its approaches “ as other diseases of the inflammatory kind do, and is “ itself no other than a fever of that kind,”

In the beginning of November 1773, he was seized with the Gout, at least his friends gave the disorder that (w) appellation, and he was the more inclined

to

(w) Sir JOHN PRINGLE says, "The antients seem to have imperfectly distinguished the Gout from the distemper now called the Rheumatism, by giving the name of *arthritis* to the affection of all the joints, whether the pains are from a rheumatic inflammation, or a gouty humour."—But do not the antients appear to have done wisely in this respect? And, had the moderns made no other distinction, might not a more successful treatment of the Gout, ere this, have been obtained?—For here one might reasonably ask, Is there not a Gouty, as well as a Rheumatic Inflammation?—And how doth the humour of the one, under *that* circumstance, or indeed under *any* circumstance, differ from the humour of the other?—Until this distinction is better ascertained by the moderns, will it not tend to mislead practitioners? For, agreeably to a just and common observation, which Dr. PRINGLE himself adopts, "Names are apt to impose upon the understanding."—And, to reverse the application of the Doctor's words, "Might it not as well be imagined," (if indeed it be allowable to give scope to our imaginations on this subject) that the moderns, now that they have got this new distinction, "do as often confound, and consequently often unskilfully manage," the Gout and Rheumatism, as the antients did "the different

to believe it such, as some of his family had been grievously afflicted by it.

For about three months from that time he had scarce passed a day, as he informed me, free from pain, either in his legs, feet, arms, or hands, though without much swelling. I was not sent for till the Gout had attacked his stomach. He was then bled, having a strong, labouring, but not a quick pulse, and immediately took six drachms of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. which procured him speedy relief.

On its seizing his bowels not many weeks

“ferent kinds of the Arthritis?”—“A distinction,” says Dr. PRINGLE, in another part of his work, “has commonly been made between the Pleurisy and Peripneumony, which I likewise followed in the former editions. But having since read the dissections and remarks of those celebrated authors, de Haller, and Morgagni, relating to this subject, I am convinced, that we ought to consider these two distempers as *one*.”—This is ingenuous in the Dr.; and possibly, on re-considering the matter attentively, the same ingenuousness may dispose him to think more favourably of the antients, with regard to their notion of the Arthritis.

weeks after, when I was again sent for, the medicine was followed with a like and almost instantaneous good effect. For I left him at perfect ease before I quitted the house, strongly recommending to him however, as the best preservative from a more severe visitation, to make use of the bark and the cold-bath. But the family entertaining some prejudices against both, my advice was at that time disregarded; for which he suffered severely soon after: for on the 24th February 1774, he was seized with what himself, his friends, and all who saw him, called a fair fit of the Gout, attended with a high degree of fever, which continued for near a month;—his pulse generally quick, full, and strong. Thirty-six ounces of blood were taken from him on different occasions, during his illness, which constantly appeared highly inflammatory and pleuritic—no Case more so that I ever saw. His urine was turbid, high-coloured, and deposited a considerable quantity of brickdust sediment, till  
towards



towards the decline of the fever, when it became much more transparent, and of a straw colour. His hands first, his feet afterwards, and his knees last of all, were full of anguish, prodigiously turgid, and red as crimson. During all this time, the pains and swellings, as they abated in, or deserted one part, flew to, and affected some other.

Had things remained in this situation, I should have thought myself tolerably secure: but the disorder on many occasions manifested an obvious tendency to fall upon the more noble parts, and became truly alarming; affecting his breath (x) sometimes,

(x) "It hath been disputed among physicians," saith Dr. MEAD, "whether or not, a vein may be opened  
 "when the pain in the joints is extremely severe.  
 "Now, to settle this point, we ought never to forget,  
 "that this pain is highly necessary for tumefying the  
 "part, and therefore ought to be borne with patience.  
 "This, however, notwithstanding, (seeing it is certain,  
 "that excessive heat is an obstacle to the natural secretions from the blood, which are necessary for health)  
 "if the fever run very high, and especially if it be attended with difficulty of breathing, blood-letting will  
 "not

times, at others his stomach or bowels.—

Thrice it flew to his hip, occasioning the most insupportable torture, which wrung from him, though remarkable for his patience, expressions of the deepest anguish. He was generally costive, on which account the Tincture was given him to the quantity of four, on some occasions to six drachms, and as it answered well in that

N respect,

“ not only lessen the pain, but likewise happily promote  
 “ the issue of the humour.—But I have very frequently  
 “ observed physicians to be too timorous with respect  
 “ to this evacuation, from a notion, that it would  
 “ prevent the Gouty humour from being thrown upon  
 “ the joints, &c.”—

But, what wonder this timidity should take place, when a much greater authority than Dr. MEAD, hath forewarned us, “ *Quamvis enim qui educitur sanguis pleuriticorum & rheumatismo laborantium sanguinem ut plurimum referat, attamen venæsectio haud minus insigniter in hoc morbo officere ægro, quam in duobus prædictis prodesse cernitur.*”—On the whole then, may we not say in the words of Dr. Sir GEORGE BAKER, on a different occasion, “ The practice of  
 “ physic rarely admits of any perpetual precepts; and  
 “ he will be very apt to err, who will not, as he may  
 “ find occasion, deviate from authorities, and follow  
 “ the dictates of his own judgment and discretion, as  
 “ they arise from the Case before him”?

respect, so it had the happiest effect also in diverting the complaint to the extremities, whenever it seemed to point, and that it frequently did, inwards upon the bowels, and relieved him greatly from those sour belchings, and that indigestion of which he complained for some months previous to, as well as during his confinement; and all this without any augmentation, nay with a sensible diminution of his febrile symptoms, exceeding any consequent upon the Bleedings. Debilitating sweats broke out now and then in the more early, as well as in the more advanced stages of the disease.

Besides the Tincture, saline draughts, with Sal. Diuret. Cordial Confec. Confec. Damoc. and other appropriate cordials, and anodynes, were given, as circumstances seemed to require, and whey was directed to be drank plentifully.

I constrained the patient to keep out of bed as much as possible, and to throw aside his flannels.

Two blisters (y) were applied to the ankles. On the removal of one of which some

(y) Dr. STEVENSON, in a late tract on the Gout, amidst a variety of foreign matter (a little creditable to the faculty in general) hath recommended blistering almost *alone* as a successful method of treating that disease. But though this will do much, perhaps, nearly as much as any other single means hitherto known, yet will it be found on many occasions, like all other nostrums, inadequate to the end proposed. And this attempt to reduce the treatment of the Gout, whilst the true nature of the disorder remains little understood, to so *simple* a method, to such an *oneness*, if I may so speak, hath proved truly unfortunate for the miserable sufferers under this malady; thus cutting the sinews of rational enquiry, and obstructing the knowledge of a safe and successful practice. For, whilst the complaint puts on such a variety of appearances, is sometimes attended with, and at other times without a fever, attacking the bilious, sanguineous and plethoric, as well as the nervous and debilitated, a difference of treatment must unavoidably take place, and the discriminating judgment and penetration of the physician becomes requisite. — And Dr. STEVENSON might as well attempt to cure all fevers, however various in their natures, by a favourite wine, Port alone, as to cure all Gouts, however modified, by blisters alone. And the necessity of taking a larger compass for the present, and being less confined in prescribing, is acknowledged by



some blackness appeared, (a circumstance I had never observed before in similar cases) but this was soon dispersed by a common spirituous fomentation. A plaister also,

the Doctor in the fullest manner, when he tells us, that in his own Case, besides blistering, he took Pil. Ruffi. or Pil. Aromat. and, in the Case of his patient, he gave warm bitters of the purgative kind, and, for a time, an opiate, adding elsewhere, that "to prevent its constipating effects on the bowels, a favourite li-  
quid purgative is always recommended."

I cannot omit adding here an assertion of the Doctor's, which may give infinite consolation to *credulous* arthritics, but to such only, viz. "That he hath not the smallest doubt of success in *every Case*, provided the period of life be not too far advanced."——

Dr. HARDY too, as expressed above, (see note b. p. 4.) had appeared equally confident, "That this formidable disease may be almost *annihilated*;" and we were given to expect, after exploring, as he apprehended, the primary cause of the Gout, "the wisest and most rational method of cure."—But, "after a twelve months constant employment of thought on the subject," he is at last become diffident, and struck with the arduousness of the attempt, willingly resigns the laborious task to his antagonist, Dr. RIOLLAY, whom he not only joins, in decrying all nostrums and specifics hitherto proposed, but would deprive the poor  
arthritic

also, of Empl. Cephal. and Episp. was once applied to his hip, which quickly removed the pain, by a different kind of pain (so the patient expressed himself) equally severe, but which presently ceased.

It ought not to be omitted, that for some months before, as well as during his confinement, spasms or twitchings frequently affected one or both sides of his face,

After the total cessation of the fever, and the abatement of the pains and swellings, the use of the Cold-bath was pressed on the patient in the strongest manner; with which it was difficult to obtain a compliance.

The intire confidence, however, which the patient placed in his physician, induced him at last to follow the advice with great

N 3

cheer-

arthritic of all consolation from *Hope* itself, by expressing his firm belief, that *none*, effectual for a cure in this disease, *will ever* be discovered. — But, let the afflicted hope still. — Time was, when we had no specific for the itch, for the ague, for the lues; nay, the point of the illiterate Grecian woman's needle, proved greater than a specific, and in a disorder too far more fatal than the lues itself. — See his answer to Dr. RIOLLAY's letter.

cheerfulness and resolution. He accordingly went first into the Cold-bath, and afterwards bathed in the sea; by which means, joined to the exercise of riding, and the use of a light infusion of the Bark and bitters, he soon intirely recovered his former health and strength; and now, in his own words, eats, drinks, and sleeps, as well as ever he did in his life, and hath not, for several years, had a return of his former complaints.

Should this continue to be the case, and I have the most confidential persuasion that it will, by regularly pursuing the course recommended, it ought to encourage our hopes, for the good of mankind, that Medicine may learn in time (what she is as yet said to be ignorant of) not only to give relief in, but to cure the Gout.

C A S E



## C A S E II.

**A** Gentlewoman, at a considerable distance from town, desired my advice the latter end of February 1774. In consequence of the representation of her case, in a letter from her husband, I directed an antimonial vomit, and the Guaiacum Tincture.

The apothecary, in a letter the week after, represented the Case as paralytic, and thus described the symptoms. —

“ An involuntary (z) shaking of the head  
N 4 “ — unable

(z) “ While the Gouty matter,” saith Dr. QUINCY,  
“ hangs about the nerves and fibres in general, it occasions erratick pains, twitchings, cramps, convulsions, and all those disorders commonly included under that general term, the vapours and hypochondriacal affections; and, in short, all those symptomatical Gouts, which are often mistaken for other distempers, and which Dr. MUSGRAVE has so accurately described in his learned treatise on that subject.”



“ — unable to continue it in a natural  
 “ state — the chin sometimes hanging  
 “ nearly to the right shoulder — then in  
 “ a dancing manner falling back to the  
 “ proper form — then as much to the  
 “ left — thus the head is variously distort-  
 “ ed — the speech not affected — the back  
 “ part of the occiput dull and painful —  
 “ a rigidity in the neck — in general cold  
 “ — pulse low and regular — urine turbid,  
 “ but small in quantity — catamenia re-  
 “ gular — breathing easy — sleep interrupt-  
 “ ed — tongue white, not dry — a slight  
 “ numbness along the arm — countenance  
 “ pale — eyes lively — memory perfect.”

On this I directed blisters, at due inter-  
 vals, to the head, betwixt the shoulders,  
 and behind the ears; and internally Pil.  
 Gummos. Guaiacum and Valerian Tinc-  
 ture: recommending farther the liberal use  
 of mustard and horse-radish, and also the  
 Cold-bath: but having no opportunity of  
 seeing the patient, was obliged to refer the  
 application or use of the whole, or any  
 part, to the discretion of the apothecary,  
 and friends about her.

Her

Her husband, a Clergyman, hath since informed me, that she grew much better, on the use of the vomit and the Guaiacum Tincture for a few days; but being eager to obtain a speedy cure, the blisters were applied, which, he thinks, by weakening and reducing her too much, retarded her recovery. However, by the use of the internal medicines, she was surprizingly recovered. But, on catching cold, and exerting her strength too much, and too soon, as apprehended, she relapsed, which induced her to come to town, and put herself under my care. Her disorder increased so fast upon her, by the fatigue of the journey, or some other cause, that when she arrived, I scarce ever saw a more deplorable object — formerly plump and florid, now pale and emaciated — involuntary motions all over her body, particularly in her head, neck, and hands, which rendered her unable to carry her meat to her mouth.

I gave her immediately Guaiacum and Valerian Tincture liberally, with chalybeats and the Bark; and in a few days after her

her arrival she went into the Cold-bath; and by following this course for a month or five weeks, she returned home greatly recovered. I recommended to her the occasional use of her medicines, particularly the Guaiacum Tincture; and on the beginning of June following, her husband writes to me thus: "My wife  
 " is now much better than she has ever  
 " been yet, hath recovered her appetite,  
 " feels herself stronger, and walks in her  
 " garden and about her family affairs  
 " with her usual spirit and chearfulness,  
 " so that we are now in great hopes of  
 " a perfect recovery." — On the 28th November 1775, I had an opportunity of seeing my patient, and the pleasure to find her in full health.

Now, may we not look upon the Case above as the consequence of a neglected or ill-treated Gout?—Will not the following account, which I received from her husband in September 1774, warrant such a conjecture?

" December 1769, my wife strained  
 " her



“ her ankle by a fall, which confined  
 “ her for a month or five weeks, and  
 “ was treated in a manner as strains  
 “ usually are; and at length she recover-  
 “ ed the use and strength of her ankle.  
 “ In the autumn following; viz. 1770,  
 “ the same part was affected again, with-  
 “ out her being sensible of having done  
 “ any thing to occasion it. She com-  
 “ plained of shooting pains, the ankle  
 “ swelled, and looked red and shining.  
 “ She, thinking it to be the consequence  
 “ of the strain, of her own accord, rub-  
 “ bed it with opodeldoc, wrapped it in  
 “ flannels, &c.”

“ She was in like manner affected in  
 “ the autumn 1771, for several days, but  
 “ doth not remember whether she used  
 “ any application, but that of flannel.  
 “ In October 1772, she was seized with  
 “ a violent disorder in her breast, which  
 “ was called and treated by the apothecary  
 “ as an inflammation of the lungs, by  
 “ bleeding, blistering, and powders of  
 “ some kind or other.”

“ At



“ At a distance from home, July 1773,  
 “ she was affected in a manner that she  
 “ had not experienced before—a total loss  
 “ of strength.—This was succeeded by a  
 “ numbness in the back part of her head.  
 “ However, she got better without ap-  
 “ plying to medicines. September fol-  
 “ lowing, she had a slight attack of the  
 “ same disorder; and hath had more or  
 “ less of that numbness in her head, at  
 “ different times, since she was first at-  
 “ tacked with it.”

“ January last, 1774, when on a visit  
 “ at ——— she was seized with such a  
 “ general illness—numbness in her head  
 “ —coldness at stomach (a)—coldness and  
 “ stiffness in her neck, &c. as obliged  
 “ her to leave the company. I got some  
 “ ounces

(a) “ This circumstance,” saith Dr. MEAD, “ which  
 “ I have scarcely ever remarked in any other distem-  
 “ per, is here to be observed, that when the Gout hath  
 “ seized the stomach, this organ becomes so cold and  
 “ torpid, that wine seems no stronger than water; and  
 “ it requires, and easily bears, the hottest liquors, such

“ ounces of Sal. Volatile, and gave it  
 “ her pretty plentifully, which might  
 “ perhaps be a means of preventing the  
 “ increase of her disorder till the latter  
 “ end of February, when it appeared  
 “ with violent symptoms indeed, and I  
 “ applied to you for her.”

Whether or no these dreadful symptoms were the effects of a repressed Gout, let the medical reader judge for himself.

“ as spirits drawn from wine. Wherefore not only  
 “ generous wines are to be given in pretty large quantities, but also vinous spirits rendered more efficacious  
 “ by the infusion of snake-root, ginger, or garlick.  
 “ And if these should not prove powerful enough, it  
 “ will be proper to order the powders of snake-root,  
 “ ginger, or long-pepper, mixed with the Cordial Confection, to be taken by the mouth.”

## CASE

## C A S E III.

**M**R. B. BURTON, of Tottenham, in the 30th year of her age, formerly of a ruddy and healthy, now of a more pale and sickly complexion, was invaded by the Gout, with fever, the beginning of January 1774, which ran through almost every part of her body. It first began in her arms, descended from thence to her knees and feet, which grew red, swelled, and painful. Her hands also became affected in the same manner, and continued so till the termination of her illness.

February 16th, I was called to her assistance, and found her greatly exhausted by the pain, and want of rest, but most of all by her night-sweats. Her tongue was white, but moist;—urine thick and turbid;—pulse quick, but not full or strong.

She

She was then, and had been all along  
costive.

Six ounces of blood were taken from  
her, which was, as usual, fizy. This  
gave her almost instantaneous relief, in-  
somuch that it disposed her to wish to  
be bled every day. A draught, with two  
drachms of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. was di-  
rected to be taken every, or every other  
night, and a decoction of the Bark, with  
Conf. Cardiac.

18th the bleeding was repeated, and  
the medicines continued, when I left her  
considerably better, and had no opportu-  
nity of seeing her till the 26th. In that  
interval six ounces more blood were drawn  
by the advice of the apothecary, which  
had its usual buffy appearance; but it was  
the patient's own remark, that the first  
bleeding afforded the most sensible relief.  
Except a cordial mixture, and the addition  
of a little Tinct. Thebaic. to the night  
draught nothing farther of moment was  
prescribed.

27th I left her to all appearance well,  
and she hath continued so ever since,  
excepting



excepting a slight stiffness in her arms; and that she fails, in one particular, of her usual regularity. From this latter circumstance, however, she finds no great inconvenience.

To prevent a relapse (for she had a similar attack, but of longer continuance, about twelve years ago, and was on that occasion, as she informs me, bled with the lancet and leeches, by the direction of a physician of reputed eminence, not less than sixteen times) the Cold-bath was recommended, and she hath derived from it the intended benefit.

#### C A S E IV.

**M**R. FRALEY, junior, of Friday-Street, about thirty years of age, of a thin habit, and when in health of a florid countenance and active disposition,

tion, had some years ago a fit of the Gout, which was so slight that the remembrance of it had almost escaped him.

In the spring 1774, his friends grew very apprehensive for him, supposing him to be hastening fast into a consumption. His appetite failed him, and he grew sick at the sight of food. Towards morning, he broke out into sweats. He had a slight cough and pain in his head. The left side of his face swelled and became red and painful, which he supposed to be the effect of a cold, or a Rheumatic pain, as he called it.

When I first visited him, I directed nothing more than a mild emetic (b), which had the best effect: for the same night the Gout seized his great toe, which brought to his remembrance the former attack, and gave him so much pain,

O

as

“(b) A gentle vomit, such as the Indian root is, is not only proper, but even absolutely necessary, because vomits do, the most effectually of any thing, throw every disorder out of the habit, and so are the most probable means to expel the Gout on the extremities.”

Dr. CHEYNE.

as deprived him of all rest. The pain of his face, however, immediately abated, and the swelling and redness disappeared also. Though the pain in his toe was exquisite for the time, no fever ensued.

The Tincture was directed in such quantities only as were sufficient to keep his body open, and the disorder in that part where nature, assisted by the action of the vomit (c), had happily lodged it. The Bark and Cordial Confection were also prescribed.

In less than ten days, all his complaints ceased. His strength, spirits, and appetite returned. The night-sweats, by which he was so much exhausted, left him intirely. To the pain in his great toe, which extended itself sometimes through the foot, succeeded a great itching, and the cuticle peeled off.

These

(c) A gentleman in Catherine Court, Tower Hill, for a few days slightly feverish with sickness, was very lately, on my giving him the Ipecac. with Antimonial wine, seized the same night with the Gout in his foot.

These complaints removed, he betook himself to his horse and the Cold-bath, as advised; hath had an interval of several years; and, if he persist in the use of them, will, in all probability, prevent much future misery.

## C A S E V.

**P**ETER STRINGER, of Hackney, a gardener, fifty-eight years of age, of a strong make and sanguineous habit, had often, of late years, been troubled with Rheumatic complaints (d), affecting chiefly his loins and hips, which he generally removed by the use of Gum  
O 2 Guaiacum,

(d) The following are Dr. QUINCY's words—"Why  
" Rheumatisms likewise, and hysterical affections, are  
" frequently fore-runners of the Gout in the female sex,  
" [and hypocondriacal affections in men] is, because  
" those disorders are from the same peccant matter as  
" the Gout; which is farther confirmed by their intire  
" removal after a fit of the Gout, in manner as most  
" other nervous distempers are."



Guaiacum steeped (e) in brandy, of which he took, what he called, a pap-spoonful twice a day in barley-water.

March 5th, 1774, being at work, and exposed to the wet, the Gout seized his left-hand, which instantly became, and continued intolerably painful, so as to deprive him of rest for four days and nights. His hand became swelled, highly inflamed, and so stiff, that he could not move a single joint of his fingers.

His old medicine, which he had used liberally,

(e) Dr. CLERK, in his *observations* on the arthritis anomala, speaking of one of his patients who was confined with a regular Gout every winter, from one to four months, saith, “ he tried several remedies, with  
“ a view to prevent or lessen the fits; but the one,  
“ which he found of most use, was a Tincture of  
“ Gum Guaiac. in brandy, twenty drops of which,  
“ taken evening and morning when the fit was upon  
“ him, used to put it away in three or four days.  
“ As he was told, that this method of cure might be  
“ attended with danger, on account of its sudden  
“ operation, without producing any remarkable evacuation, he only used it in some fits; besides, he  
“ never took it in the intervals.”—Was this patient rightly informed?—Or could *twenty drops* of the Tincture produce the effects here ascribed to it?

liberally, failing him on this occasion, he came to me on the 29th, in the state above described, muffled up with flannels, with a weak but regular pulse. He was regular also in his habit of body, and in his manner of living; but his occupation subjected him to heats and colds.

After advising him to dismiss his flannels, which was done with some reluctance, half an ounce of the Tincture was given him four successive days, which generally produced two or three motions, and was attended with apparent advantage, insomuch that, April 2d, he was able to pursue his usual labour, which he hath done ever since, now seven years, without the least inconvenience, and without using any other means.

## C A S E VI.

**E**—T— of Kinsland, aged fifty, of a middle stature, a stout well-made person, of a florid complexion, was seized with the Gout about the 26th of April 1774.— It had continued upon him three weeks before he applied to me, and confined him to his bed, where he lay in great pain, unable to turn or assist himself.

When I saw him, the disorder had fixed itself chiefly in his hips and loins. He was free indeed from fever, but, having then a strong, full pulse, was bled, with no apparent relief, however, from that evacuation, though his blood was thick and fizy. Half an ounce of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. was given him every morning for a week, with as little benefit. After that he took a full ounce at once daily, for near the same time, which,

which, without occasioning any ruffle, intirely removed the pain from his hips, and loins into his left thigh and knee.

The quantity of the medicine was after that reduced one half. The pain abated; in four days almost intirely ceased; and bathing in a neighbouring rivulet completed the cure.

#### C A S E VII.

**A** Gentleman, of Hackney, aged fifty-nine, formerly stout and robust, now vastly emaciated by repeated attacks of the Gout, for above twenty years, notwithstanding a life of great regularity and temperance, never had it in his extremities but once, and then it fell into one of his feet, but did not continue there above six or seven days. His stomach, head, and lungs, were



were generally and chiefly affected, and a confirmed asthma had taken place for some years. But he always observed, and it was visible to every beholder, that his breath was most high and laborious when a fit of the Gout was upon him, and when his pain was most intense.

He was become universally yellow—white of his eyes remarkably so, urine high-coloured and turbid—pulse low and tremulous. He was generally costive. Hence the piles, with which he was formerly afflicted, were supposed to proceed. They were of the bleeding kind, and discharged at times profusely. Finding no benefit from a long attendance of regular physicians and surgeons, he applied to a noted Adventurer in physic, who, for a single moidore, recommended to him to inject now and then two ounces of burnt brandy, which was complied with, and effectually stopped the effusion. Whether any of the patient's present complaints might be occasioned by so sudden a suppression of a natural, and oftentimes salutary

lutary evacuation, is left to the determination of those who know the danger of diverting such critical discharges.

My advice was requested 24th April 1774, when he had a severe fit upon him, and thought himself, and was thought by all his friends in the utmost danger. Half an ounce of the Tincture was given him that night, which he retained without the least inconvenience, and which gave him perfect ease at his stomach in less than two hours, producing afterwards a few gentle motions.

The next day he quitted his bed, and was in every respect as well as usual; and nothing farther was directed for him, except a cordial draught. He found himself so much relieved by the cessation of the pain, and the freedom of his breathing, that he thought more medicine, to which he was at all times averse, unnecessary. Nor, his case being thus circumstanced and complicated, did I urge it upon him, but left him with this advice, carefully to avoid catching cold, and to  
trust

trust to his horse, of which he made daily use.

He continued in a tolerable state of health, free at least from any violent attack of the Gout, till August 10th, 1774, when I was again sent for, the pain at his stomach being most excruciating, and the difficulty of breathing greater than ever. In other respects he was much the same, persuaded, that if the pain at his stomach could be removed, he should find immediate relief in his breathing.

I directed for him that night the Tincture, which caused him to reach a little, proved gently aperient, eased intirely the pain at his stomach, and his breath also became less affected.

The medicine was repeated two days afterwards with the like effect, but without occasioning sickness. Saline draughts, well warmed with Conf. Cardiac. and Damoc. with Gum Guaiacum and Sulphur occasionally, were directed and continued to the 18th, when I left him happily

happily restored to his usual state of health.

In a case so complicated, a *radical* cure is not to be expected.

### C A S E VIII.

**M**ISS FENWICK, of Watling-Street, rather of a sanguineous, habit, chearful temper, active disposition, and remarkably abstemious, had the Gout in her stomach to a great degree the latter end of June 1774, which was totally removed by taking, of her own accord, a full ounce of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in the space of an hour.

24th August it attacked her again, first in the ancle, occasioning a stiffness, as if strained; but afterwards flying to her stomach, betwixt three and four in the afternoon, she took at twice, one ounce of the Tincture, and, desirous to drive it



it away with all speed, half an ounce more at bed-time, and rested well after it.

I was consulted on the 26th, when the pain at her stomach was considerable, but not so intense by far as it had been: though even then it frequently pierced through her stomach to her back.

Having sufficient reason to suspect that the pain at her stomach was protracted by worms of the ascarides kind, I advised her to desist, for the present, from the Tincture, and to take something different that night, in which regard would be had to both her complaints. Accordingly a Bolus, consisting of a scruple of Gum Guaiac. with a like quantity of Spices, and gr. vi. of Merc. Dul. was directed that night; and twice a day afterwards, without the Merc. Dul.

A great number of ascarides was voided after the first Bolus; but neither that, nor the succeeding ones, moving the pain intirely, recourse was again had to the Tincture; after taking three doses of

of which, I left her at perfect ease; not omitting, however, as I rarely do, to recommend the Bark and the Cold-bath, where there appears no sufficient reason to the contrary.

Some years ago, while this lady was at Bath, the Gout seized her hand, which was red, swelled, and painful for a considerable length of time.—This circumstance renders the Case unequivocal.

### CASE IX.

**M**ARY QUINCY, resident with the lady last mentioned, twenty-three years of age, a stout strong-made person, of a dark complexion, enured to hard labour from her infancy, was about the middle of August 1774, racked with a violent pain in her head; to remedy which half an ounce of the Tincture was given, by the advice of one in the family,

family, in the morning, and the same quantity at night, which operated, as the case was represented to me, by sweating only: but, the pain continuing, blisters were applied the next day, by the direction of the same person, behind the ears, which were supposed to give some relief. The Tincture was still continued, till the Gout shewed itself manifestly, by the pain, swelling, and redness of the right foot.

This happened on the 30th, when my attendance was desired.

I recommended, seeing no reason to the contrary, a perseverance in the use of the Tincture, which agreed perfectly well with the patient; acting by perspiration, but not sensibly by stool.

The next day the other foot became affected in the same manner, and both continued in that state till 4th September, when, the pain and swellings abating, she walked about with tolerable ease; and, on the 6th, I left her quite well.

It is needless to repeat what was farther

ther recommended, with a view of strengthening the habit in general, and preventing a return of the complaint; and altogether as needless to repeat, how little attention is paid to such advice, when persons are once at ease and free from pain.

### C A S E X.

**M**R. SIBONNE, of Low-layton, aged seventy, naturally of an athletic habit, but now greatly reduced by many severe attacks of the Gout, desired my advice in the spring 1774. He was thought by all his acquaintance, and so he appeared to me, near his end. All expected from me was, to give him, if possible, a little temporary relief from a most agonizing pain now fixed in his hip, which confined him to one posture, and deprived him of rest. He was  
universally



universally yellow, without fever, but costive—pulse low and languid.

A few ounces of blood were directed to be taken away by cupping, a large blister to be applied immediately afterwards to the part, and the Tincture, seeing nothing to forbid it, was also directed.

Luckily, however, before I quitted the room, I was informed of a most material circumstance, which, till that moment, had been concealed from me; *viz.* that the patient had for many years been troubled with a rupture, which added greatly to his present affliction. On this the Tincture, lest it should prove too irritating, was omitted; and gentle laxatives, with cordials, supplied its place. The cupping was omitted also, no one being at hand to perform the operation: the blister, however, and the laxative, answered very well, and procured great relief. But in no long time, as was easy to foresee, he died.

Now this Case would not have been related, had it not fallen within the limited

limited time which I had prescribed to myself; and for this farther reason, to show how dangerous it may be to conceal any material circumstance from the physician, as the following Case will yet farther evince.

## C A S E XI.

**M**R. P— of Shoreditch, aged sixty, crippled and emaciated with the Gout, with which he had been afflicted above twenty years, requested me to visit him on the 29th of July, 1774. Many of his fingers were distorted, and almost every joint of his hands affected either with chalk-stones or callosities, some fixed, others moveable—one hand was swelled, inflamed, and painful—no fever attendant—habit costive—urine pallid, depositing a light whitish sediment. He had long given up (indeed it was not to

P

be

be expected) all hope of a perfect recovery. The circumstance most distressing to him, far more so than any pain he experienced, and for which he now anxiously solicited relief, was a certain inquietude and restlessness during the night, which quite exhausted both his strength and spirits. On this account he had applied to a physician of reputed eminence, who directed for him Castor-draughts, from which he thought he had received some benefit, but which now, through long use, were become inefficient.

Two drachms of the Guaiacum Tincture were directed twice a day, and a mild anodyne now and then, for about a week. This gave him considerable ease; but it was necessary to conceal from him what was given, as he ascribed his principal complaint to the daily use of an Opiate, recommended by the late Dr. Warner.

I now directed the four drachms, taken at twice, to be given at once, frequent doses being disagreeable to the patient. The next night he passed in the greatest misery, from an incessant urgency to  
make

make water (f), a complaint with which he had frequently been troubled, and pain in the lower part of the abdomen.

It now appeared, (not the least intimation was given of it before) that the patient had for many years been afflicted with a rupture, and that the part was more or less affected on every attack of the Gout. Every medical person will easily conceive how I was shocked at the information. Happily for me the patient attributed all his sufferings to a fresh attack of the Gout, while I attributed them to the irritation of the medicine. However, twenty-five drops of Tinct. Thebaic. intirely allayed the ruffle, and procured him perfect ease.

After expostulating with my patient

P 2

on

(f) "It is farther to be noted," saith Dr. SYDEN-  
 "HAM that most Gouty persons, after the disease has  
 "been of long standing, become subject to the *stone in*  
 "the *kidnies*, and are generally seized with *nephritic*  
 "pains, either at the height, or more frequently at the  
 "declension of the cardinal fit, which are very severe,  
 "and weaken the patient considerably, who was but  
 "too much debilitated and exhausted by the preceding  
 "distemper."



on his indiscretion in concealing such a circumstance, I advised him to consult a surgeon without farther delay, and to have the part carefully examined. My advice was disregarded, but fortunately not the least bad consequence ensued.

## C A S E XII.

**R**ICHARD BUNDY, of Homerton, thirty-eight years of age, of a tall, thin, sanguineous habit, and active disposition, was first afflicted with the Gout in the year 1766. It was then principally confined to his great toe, which was several times invaded by it that year; nor hath he ever since been free from it any one year in a greater or lesser degree, except in the year 1769, when he had an inflammatory fever, in which he was several times bled. The attacks of the two last years have increased  
re-

remarkably, both in severity and duration.

I was not consulted in any of his fits, except the last, which happened the 11th of June 1774. It began in the joint of one of his fingers of the right hand, which swelled and inflamed, and where was formed a hard moveable substance.

From that joint it passed to several other joints of the same hand, to the wrist, elbow, and shoulder, then to the hip, and across his loins to the knee, ankle, and foot of the same side. In a few days the left side was affected in the same way, so that he could scarce be said to have a single joint free from pain. The hand first affected, was the last in recovering. A smart fever accompanied his other complaints for three weeks. He was generally regular in stools, and his urine, more especially while his fever continued, was, according to his own account, thick and muddy.

I did not see him till July 17th, when the feverish symptoms had greatly abated, and the swellings remained only in his

right hand and feet. His pulse, however, was quick, but low.

With his flesh he had lost his strength and his appetite also, and was become so feeble, and his pain and stiffness so universal, that he could scarce support, and was unable to dress or undress himself.

The Tincture was given sometimes once, sometimes twice a day, from which he received great benefit, and in about a week was so far recovered, that he walked a mile to the next river to bathe. On the 5th day after which he was able to dress himself also, and his appetite and strength returned so quickly, that after nine or ten bathings, he thought himself perfectly well; and hath followed his usual occupation ever since. Damp and foggy mornings, and the distance of the water from his house (and these things only) discouraged him from persevering in the use of the Bath.

C A S E

## CASE XIII.

**M**R<sup>S</sup>. WILTON, of London Field, Hackney, had been for some time in a declining state of health, from a variety of nervous and flatulent complaints, accompanied also with a pain at her stomach, at times extremely intense, and for which she found no relief from whatever had hitherto been prescribed. Loss of appetite, strength, and spirits ensued. Her complaint was by some called Gouty, by others Rheumatic, by others again (making a compound of it) a Rheumatic-Gout. Be it what it would, finding her faint and low, free from fever, but costive, July 22, 1774, I directed the Guaiacum Tincture, of which she took six full doses. The pain ceased — her appetite returned, and, in short, she received such immediate and universal be-



nefit (g), as determined her to keep the prescription by her. Suffering a slighter attack of her disorder more lately, she had recourse to the Tincture a second time, and received present relief.

(g) Sir JOHN PRINGLE saith, "Lime-water neither  
 "retards fermentation, like the lixivial salts, nor ha-  
 "stens it, nor makes it so violent as the *testacea* do;  
 "and being at the same time somewhat astringent, be-  
 "comes a good medicine for weak stomachs, with a  
 "predominating acid; as several have experienced, who  
 "were subject to the Gout, Gravel, and other chronic  
 "diseases, seemingly depending on that cause." —  
 Should this be the case, will it not in some measure  
 account for the immediate relief received in this and some  
 other Cases, on giving the Tinct. Guaiac. Volat.? —  
 And farther, if the Gout in the stomach be dependent  
 on a *predominating acid*, ought we not to suppose it  
 (allowing for any alteration it may undergo by an ad-  
 mixture with other fluids) to be of the same nature  
 wherever found, whether in the head, the hand, the  
 foot, toe, &c.

C A S E

## CASE XIV.

**M**R. FREEMAN, of Stoke-New-  
ington, temperate, and of a chearful,  
active disposition, was formerly subject to  
what were called Rheumatic complaints,  
but most of all, to such as were deemed  
bilious. An attack of the last kind was on  
the 3d of May 1774. It was sudden and  
severe—pain at her stomach intolerable—  
reachings incessant. The aid of the apo-  
thecary failing, a physician of reputed e-  
minence was called in, who directed, at dif-  
ferent times, three strong emetics, and va-  
rious active purgatives, to remove an obsti-  
nate costiveness, with strong cordials, ano-  
dynes, and fomentation to the part. The  
art of the physician, after repeated trials,  
proving equally unavailing, the patient had  
recourse to random experiment, and to  
whatever the regard of her friends sug-  
gested. All to no purpose. Every at-  
tempt to relieve the pain, seemed but to  
increase

increase it. Balm and mint tea was her chief support; and the agony of the pain depriving her of rest for many days and nights, excessive debilitating sweats ensued. Her strength and spirits being thus exhausted, she gave way to melancholy and dejection; and her only hope of relief was in death.

At length, however, after she had abandoned all medicine, the pain quitted her stomach, and fled first to her breast, and afterwards to her head, where it remained with so great violence, as suffered her to take no rest. Blood frequently gushed from her nose but without affording any ease. Every means of relief, hitherto tried, failing, a sound tooth was drawn, by the advice of a medical person, on the supposition that the pain was occasioned by a compression upon the nerve; the loss of which, as it did not procure even a momentary respite, the patient has only to regret.

After suffering for two months inexpressible anguish, my advice was requested July 5th. And apprehending the Case  
to

to be neither bilious, nor aguish (in which lights it had hitherto been considered, and treated accordingly) but a gouty affection, I directed the Guaiacum Tincture in full quantity twice a day, which agreed perfectly well with the patient, causing a grateful thrill (as she expressed it) through her whole body, and tending also to keep it open; to effect which, had hitherto proved a matter of great difficulty. In a few days the pain in her head abating, it was succeeded by a pain in the ankle (h), unattended, however, either with swelling or redness. This ceasing also, I left her on the 11th, to all appearance perfectly well, recommending to her, as the best preventative, to continue the Bark, and to make use of the Cold Bath, with which she readily complied, and hath not had the least return of her complaint.

On

(h) Miss Lloyd, of the same place, was very lately affected with the Gout in her head, succeeded by a pain in her ankle, of both which she was in a little time freed by the same means.



On the 18th, indeed, a rash broke out, which continued for two or three days, but which did not appear to be at all connected with her former complaints.

I shall but just add here, her pulse was always languid—urine generally pale, with a white downy sediment. (i)

#### C A S E XV.

**M**RS. PARKS, of Lambeth, of a corpulent habit, pallid complexion and lax fibre, whose parents and

(i) The reader will observe, that I have been attentive to the appearances in the urine in this, as well as in some other Cases; not indeed from a persuasion, that much useful knowledge doth at *present* result from such appearances, but yet judging it not improper barely to record the matter of fact. And I have been the rather induced to do this, as some persons have of late laid great stress on this point, particularly Dr. CLERK, who gives the following as a diagnostic of the Gout, *viz.* “white ropy filaments floating in the urine, which, when taken out, are pellucid, and when dried, turn to a kind of Calx.”—But is this observation well-founded or not?

and near relations had been martyrs to the Gout, desired my advice in the same disorder 1st September 1774.

I found her feverish—pulse quick, but low—tongue white—water thick and muddy—great thirst—restlessness—impaired appetite—faintings, with spontaneous sweats and transient stitches in her left side, without however impeding her breath—head-ach so violent at times, that she durst not raise it from the pillow. Her habit was costive, and the Fluor Albus had afflicted her for many years.

The disorder had harrassed her above a fortnight before I saw her, having first seized her head with great violence, then her neck and shoulders. Half an ounce of the Tincture had been given twice a day for three days, on the recommendation of a Lady, into whose hands my pamphlet had fallen, and who had herself received benefit by the use of the medicine. But the left hand here-upon swelling, and the two last fingers thereof becoming red and angry, she began to be alarmed, and durst no longer  
trust

trust to her own judgment. Her fears soon communicated themselves to the family, on which I was sent for.

Having no reason to doubt of the proper application of the medicine, I recommended the farther use of the Tincture. The next day the pain, redness, and swelling abated, but the other hand swelled greatly, grew tense and fiery, and remained in that state four days, when, the swelling subsiding, it became, like the other, flaccid, and of a more livid hue. The Tincture all this while sat easy upon the patient's stomach, produced daily two or three easy motions, did not perceptibly augment the spontaneous sweats, removed the malady properly to the extremities, dispelled the feverish heats, and left matters, in less than a week, in such a state as gave the fairest opportunity of throwing in the Bark, premising an emetic, (having twice discharged from her stomach a great quantity of white viscid matter) which had the happiest effect. I wished to have closed  
the

the whole with the Cold-bath (k) but another person (not a medical one indeed) intervening, and recommending the Warm-bath, it is probable, in this divided state, the patient would make use of neither.

While I was attending on this Case the following remarkable incident occurred in the family.

Mr. PARKS had for a considerable time been affected with a violent pain in his head, which his apothecary pronounced to be aguish, and consequently recommended the Bark, which he took in great quantity, and with great perseverance, but

(k) Dr. WILLIAMS, in his *advice to people afflicted with the Gout*, says “ Finding from experience, as well  
 “ as physical reasoning on this subject, that the Cold-  
 “ bath, when prudently used, cannot act as a *repelling*  
 “ medicine, but the contrary, I must recommend it as  
 “ one of the best remedies in nature to brace up the  
 “ relaxed and weakened nerves and fibres, to give  
 “ force to the muscles, to promote and give a due  
 “ velocity to the circulation in the minute vessels of  
 “ the body, to open the pores and promote perspira-  
 “ tion, and to strain and purify the blood; and all this  
 “ without any fatigue to the patient, &c.”



but without any good effect. In this extremity, a Lady, who had had frequent opportunities of seeing the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. given by me in a numerous family, out of her great humanity, advised him to take a full ounce of it within the hour. This was about ten in the morning. The advice was readily complied with; and he soon found relief. At noon half an ounce more was given, and with so great success, as encouraged them to hope and attempt a speedy and effectual cure. Accordingly, the pain (though with considerable abatement) still remaining, between nine and ten in the evening, an ounce more was given within the hour, which intirely removed his pain. On this he immediately called for his supper, eat heartily, went to sleep, and awoke next morning fit for business, which he hath prosecuted ever since, without any interruption from his former pain.

Thus, in less than twelve hours, two ounces and an half of the Tincture were taken, not only with ease and safety, but with the greatest benefit, though administered

nistered by one who made not the least pretensions to medical knowledge.

That some such event would take place, from my method of practice being made public, I easily foresaw; and that more hazardous experiments would be tried in the use of the medicine, than the caution of the regular physician durst venture to make. It gives me pleasure, however, to find, upon the review of a long practice, as well as from the Case before us, that the dose may be considerably augmented without the least danger; and that Cases may possibly happen, wherein it may, with advantage, be administered in even a still more liberal manner.

The above Case, from the representation given me of it, I judged to be that of an unformed Gout, and should certainly have acted as the Lady did, though very probably not with the same fortitude.

Q

CON-

## CONCLUSION.

Thus have I laid before the Public, sufficient proof of the safety and efficacy of one particular Medicine of the Dispensatory of our College; and have the satisfaction to find, that I have, in some measure, rescued it from that state of neglect into which it was fast sinking, by the hasty reflections, and ill-grounded prejudices of some persons of no inconsiderable repute (k).

I shall only add, that if in the narration

(k) "This passion, this blindness," saith a certain writer, "for the honour of great names, and not judging for ourselves, is preposterous, and none of the least causes of that darkness and obscurity, which at this day attends medicinal inquiries."

tion of the Cases (1), I may appear to some to have been unnecessarily prolix, by too minute a detail of common appearances, whether in the blood or in the urine; let the following words of the *Medical Transactions* of our College be my apology, — “Almost all Facts teach something.”

(1) The reader is once more desired to observe, that these Cases in the Gout are not selected or picked out of numbers, but are all taken as they rise, in the course of my practice; and contain the *whole*, from a *limited* time; *viz.* from March 1772 to September 1774.

THE END.



tion of the Gates (1). I may appear to some  
to have been unnecessarily picking up too  
minute a detail of common appearance,  
whether in the blood or in the urine,  
for the following words of the  
President of our College, Dr. J. A. Allen,  
logically follow: "All of this is a common  
thing."

(1) The reason is, however, that the  
Gates are not the only place where  
of number, but the all else is lost in the  
of my patients, and contain the most  
thing, which is the only thing to be  
remembered.

THE END

# A P P E N D I X

TO THE

C A S E S, &c.

N° I.

A Translation of THREE LETTERS of  
Mr. EMERIGON's on the GOUT, with Remarks.

N° II.

An Extract from Dr. CLEPHANE's Inquiry  
into the Origin of the GOUT POWDER, with  
Remarks.

N° III.

A SIBERIAN PLANT recommended in the GOUT.

N° IV.

Dr. PANTON's Account of the Treatment of  
the GOUT in the WEST INDIES.

# A P P E N D I X

## C A S E S TO THE

A Translation of the French Letters of  
Mr. L'Escur, on the Gout, with Remarks.

N. II.  
An Essay from Dr. Cullen's Inquiry  
into the Origin of the Gout, with  
Remarks.

N. III.  
A German Plan recommended to the Gout.

N. IV.  
Dr. Huxley's Account of the Treatment of  
the Gout in the West Indies.

# A P P E N D I X.

## N<sup>o</sup> I.

### INTRODUCTION.

**I** Was some time ago favoured by a person of consideration with a translation of two letters on the Gout, written by Mr. EMERIGON, Attorney General to the King of France, at St. Pierre, Martinique, on which I had made some remarks intended for the press. From another hand I have been lately obliged with three letters under Mr. EMERIGON's name in the original, authenticated with an imprimatur.

Signed,

Lé President Tascher.



These letters, having an affinity to the foregoing treatise, and to gratify those who may think them of more importance than I do, are here given to the Public; the two first under a more close translation than that which I had received, and the last, in substance only. If the printed copy be genuine, it should seem that some undue liberties had been taken with it.

The reader will observe that this mark (+) denotes, the variations of the translation sent me, from the printed copy.

LETTER

## LETTER I.

To the Count de NOZIERES.

*St. Pierre, Martinique, Feb. 8, 1776.*

S I R,

**A** Greeably to your request I send you the account of my Gout, and the proposed Cure.

This disease is not hereditary to me: I felt its first attack in 1767, the 55th year of my age.

Frequent, flying pains in my feet, knees, and hands, announced its approach, though I then did not think it was the Gout. But in 1769, I was seized with a fit attended with symptoms too characteristic of that disease, to leave me in any doubt,

doubt, that I was in the number of *Gouty* persons.

This fit was followed by several others; oftentimes, many in the same year; each longer and more violent than the preceeding.

My feet, my knees, and my hands were attacked, one while seperately, another while both together.

My last fit, in September 1774, was the most severe; the attack was universal, and, for the space of two months, I suffered inexpressible pain.

Fomentations and cataplasms of every kind were employed, during the crisis, without success, or affording me the least relief.

I wished to know the *cause* of this disorder. Our physicians, ancient and modern, gave me to understand, miserable comforters! that the Gout is a disease incurable—that its nature is unknown—that it is the sovereign disposer of torture—that it will yield to no force—that it becomes the more formidable by opposition—that all methods taken for softening,

ing,

ing, or reducing it, serve only to irritate it, to prolong the fits, to throw it to the extremities, and, not unfrequently, to return it from thence to the vital parts; in short, that the best remedy during the pain, is pain itself (a).

In contradiction to this doctrine, I have been assured, that an old man, who had lost the use of all his limbs by the Gout, for more than five years, had been radically

(a) Mr. EMERIGON's complaint, to the great disgrace of the profession, is but too well founded. And yet, of other disorders, in the cure of which the physician is nearly as unsuccessful, the dropsy, asthma, stone, &c. no such discouraging idea is entertained, relief is attempted at least. And hope itself, whilst it is an incentive to industry in the profession, must administer comfort to the patient, and therefore merits not in any disease to be altogether rejected.

And what means this general despair of success in the Gout? — Or what inhumanity, may I not call it, thus to desert our miserable patients whilst they are looking up to *those* for relief, from whom surely, they most reasonably expect it! Nay, who have a claim upon us to that industry and effort of the mind, which cannot be expected under despair. Let us no longer meanly leave them to accident for relief, or (which is indeed the common consequence) force them into the hands of the unfeeling empiric.



cally cured by a remedy which he learnt of a Charib.

Having ascertained the fact, and made myself certain of the method of cure, I immediately tried the same remedy, the salutary effects of which I soon experienced.

The receipt is as follows: To *three pints* (b) of rum put two ounces of Gum Guaiacum reduced to powder. Set it in the sun, for seven or eight days, † (c) in a bottle

(b) I am not certain whether this is the measure intended by Mr. EMERIGON. In the original it is *trois pintes*, which was rendered, in the translation sent me, *three quarts*. This large proportion of the menstruum must render the medicine too inefficacious, in confirmed and obstinate Cases, for the timely removal of the distemper; though little doubt can be made of its utility taken afterwards, even in this proportion, as an alterative, and by way of preventing the disorder from returning with its usual severity. I speak here from my own experience. To remove the distemper, or subdue its obstinacy *speedily*, I find it necessary to direct a much stronger preparation of the Gum, even to two ounces or more, in a pint of the menstruum.

† (c) Au soleil pendent sept à huit jours, "By the fire for the space of ten days."—Before I received the

bottle well stopped, turning it and shaking the liquor from time to time to promote the solution of the Gum, observing not to fill the bottle quite full, lest the fermentation should *break it* (d). Let the liquor be filtrated through muslin or paper proper for the purpose. Decant it into proper bottles, which must be well corked. It is best to make a good quantity, as the medicine improves by age.

The dose is a table spoonful to be taken every morning † (e) *fasting*.

The taste is not pleasant, but custom will reconcile it.

The Spirit must be *rum*; brandy will not produce the same effect.

I the printed copy I made the following remark, *viz.* Half that time or less will suffice to render the solution fit for use. To wait longer, for its full effect, is but losing time and continuing pain.

(d) It is certainly proper and necessary to allow sufficient space, that the bottle may be shook as directed. But the reason here given for it, respecting the *fermentation* might have been omitted.

† (e) Tous les matins, — “at going to bed.”

I began to take this remedy in November 1774. *My legs* † (f), which used to retain a weakness for a long time after the fits, soon recovered their strength and vigour. The *nodes* (g) [tumors] *which were formed upon almost all the joints of my feet and hands* † (h) are gradually disappearing either by the medicine or by the use of white soap. *The play of the joints* † (i) is perfectly restored. There remains but two small nodes [swellings] which give me no trouble, and are every day growing less and less.

† (f) *Mes jambes qui restoient, &c.* — “The first effect was, that my *hands* and *feet* which used to retain, &c.”

(g) I have never known the nodes (properly so called) give way easily either to medicine or outward applications. Tumors, indeed, or gouty swellings, both the medicine and the soap might contribute to remove.

† (h) *Les nodus qui s'étoient formés sur presque toutes les jointures des pieds & des mains, se dissipèrent, &c.* — “The nodes, or tumours, or both, were displaced, &c.”

† (i) *Le jeu des articulations est, &c.* — “The circulation is, &c.”

I feel no longer those flying pains which used to torment me, and were the sure forerunners of a fresh attack, and for fifteen months past I have enjoyed my health, after being deprived of it for seven or eight years successively.

The *daily* † (k) *use of this medicine* relieves me in other respects. Viscous juices, eructations, acidities, and fullness at my stomach, accompanied with redundancy of phlegm, obliged me to have recourse from time to time *to the lancet* † (l) and to purgatives. These inconveniencies are removed, and my stomach performs its functions with perfect ease.

I have reason to believe that this Tincture hath the virtue of breaking and dividing the *gouty matter* (m), of prevent-  
ing

† (k) L'usage journalier que je fais de ce remede — "The constant use of this medicine every night."

† (l) A la saignée & a la purgation — "To purgatives."

(m) Mr. EMERIGON very probably knows not, that it hath been frequently questioned, whether there exists  
any



ing it from accumulating and becoming stationary, and of evacuating it either by *expectoration* (n); which is very copious after taking the dose, or *by producing the effect of a gentle purgative* † (o).

Notwithstanding what I have said I am not perfectly assured of my cure. People are apt to be too lavish in praising medicines, if they have procured them a temporary relief only.

However, should the present year pass without my feeling any symptoms of the Gout, I shall think myself radically cured.

As to regimen—The rules I observe are as follow:

I

any such matter, and whether this disorder is not merely an affection of the nervous system. And yet, what shall we say to the shew of arthritic matter in the form of chalk stones? Is this the cause, or only the effect of the disease?

(n) Mr. EMERIGON mistakes the copious discharge, he speaks of, from the breast, for what is only glandular, occasioned by the mere purgency of this medicine.

† (o) Soit en produisant l'effet d'un léger purgatif —“ or by some other means that I cannot account “ for.”

I shun high living and excess of every kind. *An hour or two after my dose* † (p) I breakfast on milk.

I dine sparingly, but am indifferent as to my choice of food. Fat or lean, sweet, salt or *spiced*, cold or hot, sit equally well on my stomach, unless I eat too much.

I make no supper, or eat very little. Old wine [de Bordeaux] with water, is my only drink.

I go to rest about ten and rise at five.

I have desisted from the use of the Bath, either warm or cold, it having suddenly brought on two fits of the Gout † (q).

† (p) Un ou deux heures après avoir pris ma dose  
— Omitted in the translation.

† (q) Je m'abstiens des bains, soit tièdes, soit froids; ils m'ont occasionné subitement deux accès de Goutte  
— Omitted.

The above variations of the translation sent me from the original, the reader will observe, are not mere *inaccuracies*, but *material*, and must have been made with *design*. I shall trouble the reader no farther with any variations in what follows, leaving him to form his own opinion of the whole, except on those passages which, supposed to be genuine, had drawn from me some remarks.

I am cautious of wetting my feet, two other fits soon following an accident of this kind.

By the help of the above medicine and regimen I enjoy at the age of sixty four perfect health.

What a blessing to mankind would it be, Sir, if the same should have power radically to cure the most severe and insupportable of all diseases!

I have the honour to be, &c.

[Signé] EMERIGON.

## LETTER II.

*St. Pierre, Martinique, Aug. 16th, 1776.*

In answer to several persons in Europe afflicted with the Gout.

S I R,

**T**HE letter inserted in the public papers under my name is certainly authentic. You may put entire confidence in the remedy

remedy †(r) mentioned in that Letter. To it I own both my present existence, and the good health I enjoy at full sixty-four years of age. It hath proved a real panacea to me. For several years an invalid, and afterwards a perfect slave to the Gout, I feel at this day not the least inconvenience from it.

But will this medicine be attended with the same success in *Europe* (s) as in *America*?

† (r) "This remedy till it has expelled and destroyed the Gouty matter, is disagreeable and *painful in its operations*". On this sentence, which is not to be found in the original, I had the following remark, *viz.* I am not certain of Mr. EMERIGON's meaning here. That he should find it disagreeable to his palate is not improbable. But this is the first time I have heard it complained of, as painful in its operation.

(s) This question, it must be allowed, we have not sufficient data to ground a conclusive answer upon. It is a medicine indeed, which hath been long enough in use in this quarter of the globe, for us to have ascertained its comparative effects with some precision. But the mode in which it hath been administered, the diversity of menstruums employed for its solution, the improper quantity in which it hath been given, the injudicious combinations with other substances of a different quality, have tended to lessen the idea of its efficacy.

But



rica? Experience alone can resolve this difficulty.

I should think, however, that the Gout must proceed from the *same principle* and from

But what, I believe, hath done it still more injury, and what had nearly given the death's blow to its reputation, hath been the want of a patient and attentive observation of its operations simply considered. It was natural when a medicine hath been given for such a length of time, not only with perfect safety, but with *general* good success in Gouty complaints, to have carefully enquired (where a failure was apprehended) into the particular circumstances which obstructed its effect: and on the other hand, where the success was apparent, accurately to notice and describe the Cases. Instead of this, it is too common to fly presently to some other means of relief, either wholly different, or so varied by complication, as to afford no certain conclusions concerning the effect either of the whole, or any part of the composition. The preceding Cases, however, it is presumed, afford some certain ground on which to form a judgment of the usefulness of the Guaiacum in this climate. And the more this method of communicating, and accurately judging by Cases, obtains in the medical world, the nearer we shall come to a solution of Mr. Emerigon's query. In the mean time I have little doubt myself of its attaining its full effect sooner in warm climates; but that this, however, may be in a great measure, if not wholly, made up, by proportioning the dose, and a proper attention to raiment, &c.

from the *same cause* (t) in all those who are afflicted with it. If this conjecture is just, the medicine must operate every where alike, except under a complication of disorders.

To direct and fix your confidence upon some probable ground, consult the *Dictionnaire Botanique & Pharmaceutique*, Ed. 1768, under the article *Gayac*; of which the following is an extract, viz. "The Guaiacum is  
 " sudorific, aperient, absorbent [difficative]  
 " purifies the blood, strengthens the joints,  
 " cures the *Gout*, *Sciatica*, *Rheumatism*,  
 " *Dropsy*, *Defluxions*, and other complaints  
 " which proceed from phlegm, mucilagi-  
 side to our (w) b nous

(t) Not to theorize here about the uniformity of the principle, or cause from which the Gout may proceed, it is reasonable, however, to think that the remedy, (allowing only for difference of circumstances) will act equally on all constitutions. Indeed, was not this the Case, medical practice would rest on a very uncertain foundation, as it is not to be supposed, that the physician can be acquainted with the different constitutions of his patients (to whom he may be altogether a stranger) while symptoms may sufficiently indicate to him the nature of the disease. Not to add, that these may take their complexion from the constitution itself.

“ nous tartar, wind, &c. The Gum acts  
 “ more powerfully than the Bark and the  
 “ wood. It should be chosen clean, shi-  
 “ ning, transparent, of a reddish-brown  
 “ colour, crumbling readily, yielding when  
 “ bruised or exposed to the fire, a strong  
 “ and agreeable smell, and of a *sharp taste*  
 “ (u) [d’un gout acre]”.

Since the publication of my letter, the  
 greatest part of the virtues attributed to  
 this drug, have been verified by various  
 astonishing cures, especially of disorders  
 arising from phlegm, and I have reason to  
 think the Gout is of that kind.

I believe I am the first who have made  
 a constant and successive (w) use of this  
 remedy.

(u) I take not upon me to decide on the particular  
 characters here given of the drug. I would only observe,  
 that the choice of medicines, and procuring them ge-  
 nuine and uninjured, is of greater consequence than is  
 generally apprehended, and deserving the serious at-  
 tention and animadversion of our College, if not of the  
 Legislature itself.

(w) No wonder so little hopes are entertained of what  
 is called a radical cure of the Gout by medicine, while  
 so little attention is paid to the importance, nay, the

remedy. The receipt indeed which was given me presented a liquor rather disgusting. It was not filtrated. The Guaiacum was in too large a proportion. And I was obliged to drink that and the rum together. The gouty persons, who had taken it before me, could not bear the strength and tartness [pungency] [lâcreté] of it. Thus forced to leave it off, they relapsed; and this brought the medicine into disrepute. They have since adopted my new method of preparing it, and no longer doubt of their cure.

Last month, however, I experienced a  
b 2 slight

necessity of perseverance in the use of the remedy prescribed. For it is not in chronic as in disorders of a shorter duration, where continuance in the same means of relief is not only unnecessary, but might be injurious. And to this want of perseverance of the patient on the one hand in the use of the remedy, and to the levity and inconstancy of the physician on the other, we are to attribute its supposed failure in so many instances. This supposition, however, so apparent in the writings of modern practitioners, implying an imputation of the inefficacy of medicine, must be admitted as a considerable apology for the conduct of the patient under so great a discouragement to perseverance.



slight attack of the Gout. I am not sorry for it. It is a confirmation of my having made a full discovery of the properties of my medicine.

I had taken it for about 19 months without intermission. The success had exceeded my expectation. Since that time, I left it off from the first of last June to the 23d of July following, observing with great attention the result of this intermission.

Nothing worthy of notice happened for the first 20 days. But I found afterwards, that my appetite began to fail, and that my stomach no longer performed its functions with ease. Pains in my head, indigestion, and other complaints, occasioned by my phlegmatic habit, returned.

In the night of the 23d of July last, I felt a pain in the ankle-bone of my left leg, which continued to increase, and was attended with swelling [gouffement] redness and burning heat.

I used no external application, but had recourse to my antiarthritic, of which I took, for three days together, two strong doses,

doses, one in the morning, and the other in the evening. They procured a copious evacuation. On the 4th day almost every symptom disappeared. On the 5th I felt not the least pain. And my stomach was soon afterwards perfectly re-established by taking only my daily dose.

All that I have now the honour of relating to you is a fact, well known in this part of the world. Be assured, I have no motive for exaggerating the merit of this medicine. The good of mankind alone has prevailed on me to make public its virtues and efficacy.

Since the last trial I made of it, I consider it in the light of a *daily aliment*, absolutely necessary for the Gouty, to ensure them a solid and permanent cure.

The dose is not strictly confined, and may be encreased or diminished, according to the habit of the patient, and the effect it produces. There is no harm even in reducing it, one third, when the cure is in a fair way. But, upon the least disorder in the stomach, it is proper to have recourse for some days to the full dose,

and even to enlarge it, if necessary, to make it act as a gentle purgative.

The use of *rum* appears to me indispensable (x). It is asserted, that rum, being made from sugar, possesses a balsamic quality, which brandy [*eau de vie*] has not. Rum is always preferred for dressings [*pansements*] being stronger, more powerful and active.

My milk-breakfast, which I constantly take about two hours after the dose is a bland corrective, in my opinion necessary.

I most sincerely and ardently wish, Sir, that this medicine may be serviceable to you. To be informed of its success will give me the greatest pleasure. How proud should

(x) On what ground is this said?—The writer doth not inform us, that he hath experienced the failure of the medicine when given in a different menstruum. He tells us indeed, “It is thought that rum, which is made “ from sugar, contains in it a balsamic quality, which “ brandy has not, and is more powerful and active.” —But we must not depend upon what is *thought*. It hath been given with very good effect in brandy. Rum may be preferable. This preference, I should think is not indispensable. See p. 196. of the Cases; also note d. in the same page.

should I be, were I able to make my cure of this dreadful disease universally known.

I am, &c.

[Signé] EMERIGON.

### LETTER III.

To Mr. EMERIGON, Counsellor at  
Marfeilles.

*St. Pierre, Martinique, Jan. 18, 1777.*

**T**HE purport of this letter is to answer the queries and satisfy the doubts of certain gouty persons in Europe.

This is done in six articles, the *substance* of which, I shall content myself with extracting, as concisely as possible.

Ist, Mr. EMERIGON authorizes his brother to assure the Querists that he continues to enjoy a perfect state of health.



2d, Relates to the *heat* (y) of the medicine, the constant use of which for two years

(y) Dr. SCOT, in his inquiry into the origin of the Gout, in which a safe and certain mode of remedying it is proposed, speaks thus of this medicine. "Gum Guaiacum, dissolved in cane spirits, or rum, is another celebrated medicine in Gouty cases. This Gum possesses the virtue of an alterative; it sometimes opens the pores of the skin, more frequently increases the peristaltic motion of the guts, keeping the bowels gently soluble. In these respects, it has greatly the advantage of the other remedy [Portland's powder] and under a more favourable climate, might be of very considerable use in Gouty cases." This then is highly recommendatory of the medicine.

But now for the Dr's drawbacks—"In this climate it is impossible, says he, to keep the skin sufficiently pervious to answer the end proposed."—Impossible! far from it. Sometimes, even in this climate the skin is kept *too pervious* to answer the end proposed.

Again, "The power of Gum Guaiacum upon the bowels as an alterative, is too weak to restore the peristaltic motion, when stopt, or evacuate the bile, when collected, in an incipient paroxysm of Gout." Has the writer tried its effects, in sufficient quantity? certain it is, this Gum is naturally aperient, and, if not sufficiently so for the purpose he states, it is surely an easy matter to render it still more active, should that be the intention of the prescriber.

But

years together, he considers as a sufficient proof of the groundlessness of any apprehensions

But hear his chief drawback. "Such medicines are  
 " in their nature much too *hot* to be persisted in with  
 " safety."—How so! this their native warmth, one  
 would think favourable to *cold petuitous* constitutions at  
 least, and particularly so in this climate.—Let us attend  
 then to the reason he assigns why they are too hot  
 (*viz.*) "the daily habit of so pungent a dram, must  
 " in the end be attended with disagreeable consequen-  
 " ces". What a reason! Is this saying any thing  
 more than that, they cannot be persisted in with safety,  
 because in the end they will be hurtful? But tho' this  
 is in reality the whole force of the argument, yet it  
 is obvious what leads the Dr. to consider this medicine  
 as too hot, and consequently of dangerous tendency,  
 (*viz.*) "the *pungency* of such a dram," as he styles it.  
 But to this he will probably be better reconciled by an  
 attention to Dr. Whyte's remarks on camphire, &c.  
 which may be well applied to this medicine. "Some  
 " esteeming it *hot*, and others of a *refrigerating* nature;  
 " observing farther, that altho' in some cases a glass of  
 " claret or port, or even a dram of brandy will render  
 " the pulse slower, and the body *cooler*; and in catarr-  
 " hous fevers, bastard peripneumonies, pleurifies and  
 " anginas, blisters often lessen the quickness of the  
 " pulse remarkably; nevertheless, wine, brandy, and  
 " blisters, are in their own nature, not cooling but  
 " heating: In like manner camphire [Gum Guaiacum]  
 " as its effects in the mouth, and on the skin and the  
 eyes,

hensions of harm arising from that circumstance.

3d, The medicine may be taken in any, even the most critical stage of the disease.

4th, The eyes, *flow*, is naturally heating; but sometimes it may cool, by lessening or removing some disorder in the body, which increased its heat and quickened the pulse. However, tho' I cannot agree, with those who think camphire [Gum Guaiacum] a cooling medicine, yet I do not look upon it to be so heating as some have imagined. Perhaps camphire may excite a less degree of heat in the stomach than in the mouth [Gum Guaiacum certainly does so] or even than when applied to the skin; for we know that the same stimulating substances affect the nerves of the stomach and of these parts very differently." See also Dr. Quincy's remarks on the same subject, page 91, 92. of the Cases.

So much for the supposed *heat* of the medicine; and that it may be safely persisted in, may be better rested upon Mr. EMERIGON's experience, than upon this writer's apprehensions of danger, which may be only ideal.

But, why do I spend time?—If what the public prints have announced to us be a truth, the Dr's prejudices against the Guaiacum, as well as Portland's powder, are the less to be wondered at, and I have only to congratulate the tortured arthritic on so near a prospect of deliverance.

4th, On fresh trials, Mr. EMERIGON changes his opinion of the necessity of persevering after the cure in the *daily* use of the medicine. And now finds that, taking it twice a week is sufficient, to prevent the accumulation of the gouty matter, and every other inconvenience.

5th, White soap in his opinion contributes much towards dispersing the nodes, as he terms them, formed upon the joints, tho' wholly inefficacious, unaccompanied with the internal medicine.

6th, That Mr. EMERIGON is far from the only instance of the radical cure which this medicine has effected.

To these articles is subjoined a letter addressed to him from France, containing two instances of the good effect of the medicine in that climate, and a certificate from the Surgeon who attended him, expressing his belief, that this remedy is the specific which has been sought after for ages.

The whole concludes with a string of Mr. EMERIGON's own narratives, too wonderful to gain the credit, he wishes them

## APPENDIX.



## A P P E N D I X.

N<sup>o</sup>. II.

An Extract from an Inquiry into the Origin  
of the Gout Powder. By JOHN CLE-  
PHANE, M.D. F.R.S. &c. with Remarks.

**T**HE reputation which a medicine late-  
ly introduced into this country, and  
known by the name of the Duke of Port-  
land's Powder, has acquired in Gouty cases,  
put me upon looking into such of the  
practical writers, ancient and modern, as I  
had an opportunity of consulting, to see if  
I could learn the age of so singular a com-  
position, if it is of modern invention, or if  
it

it is to the ancients we owe, what promises nothing less, than a cure for a distemper hitherto considered, as beyond the reach of the physicians skill, and, even to a proverb, termed the reproach of his art.

I believe then it will be easy to shew, that medicines of this nature, and of a similar composition, have been long known in physick; they were not only in use among the Greek physicians, but made a considerable part of their practice in Gouty and Arthritic complaints: afterwards indeed they seem to have fallen from that degree of estimation in which they had held them, and to have lain in a great measure neglected, till the introduction of the Greek volumes into the western parts of Europe, when they were transcribed by several of the earlier medical writers, and brought into use in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, &c. where in some places these medicines seem still to have retained a degree of credit; so that a particular form of them was brought from thence a few years ago, and revived in this country with

a person of high rank, and his experience in his own case to recommend it (z).

In

(z) The medicine, as I took it from the printed receipt with directions, is as follows:

For the Gout or Rheumatism.

R. Aristolochia rotunda, or Birthwort } Root.

Gentian. ———

Germander

Ground pine

Centaury

} Tops and Leaves.

Take all these well dry'd, powdered and sifted, as fine as you can, equal weight, mix them well together, and take one drachm of this mixed powder every morning fasting in a cup of wine and water, broth, tea, or any other vehicle you like best, keep fasting an hour and a half after it, continue this for three months without interruption, then diminish the dose to three-quarters of a drachm for three months longer, then to half a drachm for six months more, taking it regularly every morning if possible. After the first year it will be sufficient to take half a drachm every other day. As this medicine operates insensibly, it will take perhaps two years before you receive any great benefit, so you must not be discouraged though you don't perceive at first any great amendment, it works slow but sure, it doth not confine the patient to any particular diet, so one lives soberly and abstain from those meats and liquors that have always been accounted pernicious

In this inquiry I shall confine myself to a short history or account of the medicine, as far as I have been able to trace it, promising only a remark or two on the practice of the ancients in the Gout.

In general they seem to have had a much higher opinion than we have of the powers and efficacy of medicines in this distemper; for we find them extremely busy with evacuations, alteratives, and external applications, as if really something could be done; while the moderns leave the disease in a great measure to nature, and the sick person to Patience and Flannel.

The distinction of the *podagra* and *arthritis* into three sorts, namely, the sanguineous, bilious, and pituitous, from the nature of the humour deposited, as they supposed, on the joint or part affected, is the uniform

pernicious in the Gout, as champagne drams, high fauces, &c.

N. B. In the Rheumatism that is only accidental, and not habitual, a few of the drachm doses may do, but if an habitual, or that has been of long duration, then you must take it as for the Gout, the remedy requires patience, as it operates but slow in both distempers.



uniform doctrine of the earlier ages before Galen, of Galen himself, and of those who succeeded and copied after him.

Agreeably to this distinction their practice was directed; for in the sanguineous they used the lancet freely; in the bilious too they bled often; and in all the three, but especially in the pituitous, they gave their sluggish griping purgatives, as the hermodactyls, *myrobalans*, agaric, &c. after which their method was to put the patient into a long course of the warm stomatic bitters, of which, when they come to mention the *formulae* or prescriptions used in their practice, we find many of them that resemble our Gout powder, some nearly the same.

Altho' Galen, in the chapter which professedly treats of Gout medicines, seems as sparing of internals, as he is full upon the article of external applications, yet has he given us in another place, two different forms of internal medicines: the first, he tells us, was much used by the person whose name it bears; and of the other, which comes much nearer ours, he says  
what

what must be understood as a recommendation of it that he himself used it.

If to this we join the testimony of Cælius Aurelianus, who, I think, is generally allowed to have flourished near Galen's time, if he was not his cotemporary, there will hardly be any room to doubt, that such compositions were not only in use in Galen's time, but some ages perhaps before him.

The passage from whence this testimony of Cælius is taken, is in Lib. V. cap. 2. *Morb. Chronicor.* where he evidently alludes to our Gout-medicines, speaks of them, as having been in use among those he calls *Veteres*.

Now of those warm, bitter stomatic compositions, the *antidoti antipodagricæ* of Galen, or the *annalia medicamina*, as Cælius terms them, so great a variety occurs in the writings of the Greek physicians after Galen, as well as of the later collectors of receipts; and so near a resemblance do many of them bear to our present favourite medicine, that there will hardly, I imagine,  
c
remain

remain any doubt, of this being the source from whence it has been taken.

Ætius, in the chap. *de antidotis podagricis*, among other forms, describes a *tetrapharmacum*, which, by the bye, is the *diatesaron* of some modern dispensatories, an *antidotus ex hyperico*, and an *antidotus ex gentiana*, all in vogue in his time, and all resembling ours: but what I would more particularly take notice of, is what he calls the *antidotus podagrica ex duobus centaureæ generibus*, as being the medicine which comes the nearest of any to our Gout powder: their difference is only in one ingredient (a).

Alexander Trallianus is likewise high in his commendations of the *antidoti* for the Gout, and gives us several forms, in all which

(a) The character of this medicine was great, for he says of it, *Est ex vehementer laudatis et præter opinionem auxiliantibus, nam multos ejus usu servatos novi; est enim adeo salutaris podagricis, ut quosdam per xv annos podagrâ correptos, ejus usus ad iter pedibus faciendum præparaverit: Est autem stomacho grata, alvo conferens, et urinam ciens.* This is surely saying a great deal: I doubt, if the warmest advocate for our Gout powder could say more.



which our ingredients make the principal part of the composition.

Paulus Ægineta too has several *formulæ*, much the same with those of Ætius and A. Trallianus: that which he calls the *antidotus Procli*, is the same with the *antidotus podagrica quæ vocatur climax*, of A. Trallian. and contains most of our ingredients, and is one of those forms the ancients called *climax*, or *scala sacra*, no doubt from some conceit of this kind of gradation.

And here let me recount a few particulars relating to their manner of administering those remedies, and to the cases and constitutions where they recommend them as beneficial, or where they forbid the use of them as hurtful.

The form we see was that of an electary, made up with honey, as was their method.

The dose was a drachm, or the bigness of a hazel nut, in the morning fasting, with warm water (*ex aqua calida*). And this was ordered to be continued for the space of twelve months, but not without interruptions, or a lessening of the dose, or



both, as the case might require. At certain intervals too, as every two or three months, a purge was thought necessary; however, the year at any rate was to be compleated, for so much was generally thought necessary for a cure: hence the name εἰς ἐνιαυτόν *medicamenta ad annum: annalia medicamenta, &c.*

If nothing hastened or retarded this course, their method was to begin it in the spring or autumn: in cold phlegmatic constitutions, they choose the beginning of the spring; in hot, dry and bilious habits, the end of autumn.

The ancients recommended the *antidoti* chiefly in cases that are not of long standing, or as Cælius expresses it, “*iis qui non plurimo tempore fuerint passione vitiati,*” and seem to think them no longer safe past the term of five, or at furthest seven years from the first attack.

Cælius Aurelianus has told us and A. Trallianus makes the same observation, that a long uninterrupted use of those compositions were by many condemned as a dangerous practice, and often fatal.

But

But the point in which they were most peculiarly cautious, was the distinguishing the different habits or temperaments, that is, those where the *antidoti* were observed to do service, from those where they were found to be hurtful.

Ætius, though lavish of his commendations of the *antidoti ad podagram*, condemns nevertheless the indiscriminate use of them in all cases and habits; for he assures us, that they were extremely hurtful in the hot and bilious, and are only proper in cold and phlegmatic constitutions (b).

This is likewise the language of A. Tralianus.

Paulus Ægineta too has the same doctrine.

How far these practical cautions and directions may be applicable to our Gout-medicine, time and experience will shew.

c 3

Among

(b) *Utilia sunt his qui temperamenti sunt, frigidioris, vel qui ex multo et crasso fluxu laborant; verum his qui ex biliosa fluxione afficiuntur, et omnibus calidiori temperamento præditis hæc ipsa nocentissima sunt, Ætii Tetrabit. 3. Serm. IV. c. 47.*

Among the Arabian writers, at least those whom I have looked into, our bitter stomatic compositions in this intention are hardly mentioned; it is true indeed, in assigning the virtues of the ingredients separately, they speak of them as serviceable in Gouty and Arthritic disorders; but as for their compound alteratives in such cases, they seem to be chiefly of the spicy aromatic kind.

We again meet with our *antidoti* or Gout electaries (for that is the form) in some of the latest Greek writers. Actuarius has several forms resembling those of Ætius, and particularly the *antidotos Procli dicta* from Paulus.

Nicolaus Myrepsus too has several of the same, as the *antidotos Procli dicta*, the *Ægyptia magna et parva*, &c. in almost all which the ingredients of our powder make the principal part of the medicine.

In

In the supplement to Mesue, by Franciscus de pedemontium, there is mention made of a powder for the Gout, of great efficacy, called *medicamen Hermetis* (c); it is made of some of our ingredients, but he does not say, from whence he took it.

I said above, that some of the early writers, among the moderns, had copied many of these Gout remedies from the books of the Greek physicians; for this, we need only look into Sennertus, who has given us a large list of authors and prescriptions,

c 4

most

(c) *Medicamen Hermetis*, quod est proprium et mirabile valde in præservando a doloribus junctuarum, et administratur post evacuationem, et est ex diureticis ebibitis juvantibus. R Chamædryos, gentiana ana ʒ ix. aristolochiæ rotundæ ʒ ii sem. rutæ ficc. ʒ i. Terantur et cribellentur cribello subtili, et administratur cochleare unum. *Francisc. de Pedemont. de ægritud. Junctuarum. Cap. 8. pag. 113.*



most of them borrowed with little variation, from Ætius, A: Trallianus, and Paulus Ægineta.

It was probably about this period, or soon after that those medicines came into use in Italy and the neighbouring countries, and particularly that from which comes so near our present Gout powder; and which, about that time, I imagine, got the name of *pulvis principis Mirandolæ*, from having been recommended and brought into vogue by a prince of that country, perhaps the famous Joannes Picus.

I have looked into some of the earlier dispensatories of those countries, not doubting but I should find something like our medicine, and bearing this name, but all in vain. The first and exactest description I have met with of a medicine under this title, is from Tournefort, in his *Histoire des plantes qui naissent*, &c. and is precisely our powder, only with the addition of the *centaurium majus*.

This medicine was not altogether unknown in this country: Willis gives us something very like it, and at the same  
time

time mentions the ancients, as the source from whence all those alterative Gout medicines are derived (d).

J. B. Chornel speaks of the *Poudre du prince de la Mirandole* as a famous remedy in his time for the Gout and *Ifchiatica*. The receipt he gives of it, is almost literally copied from Tournefort.

In fine, the faculty of Paris have adopted our medicine in the last edition of their *Codex Medicamentorum*, under the title of *Pulvis Arthriticus Amarus* (e), which differs from Tournefort's receipt only by having the

(d) The passage is: *Præterea medicamenta alterantia a veteribus arthritidis antidota dicta egregii sunt usus et longo tempore juvamen sæpe magnum præstant. Insuper amara et adstringentia uti herbæ chamædrys, centaurium, rad. gentianæ et aristolochiæ, &c. (siquidem experientia duce in hoc morbo comprobantur) utilia esse videntur, quòd pepsos et chylificationis munia adjuvant, &c. Willis Patholog. Cap. 14.*

(e) *Pulvis arthriticus amarus. R Radicum gentianæ, raphontici, aristolochiæ rotundæ, foliorum chamædryos, chamæpytios summitatum centaurii minoris aa. q. s. F. omnium pulvis. Cod. Medicament. Paris Edit. 1748.*

the *rhaponticum* in place of the *centaurium majus*: and this difference will hardly appear material, if the *rhaponticum* is found to be an ingredient in several of the ancient *antidoti*, and if in some of our books of botany and *materia medica*, the *rhaponticum volgare*, and the *centaurium majus*, are classed as the same plant.

The principal use I would make of all this, is only to shew, that Cælius Aurelianus's *diacentaureon*, and Ætius's *antidotus ex duobus centaureæ generibus*, were the same medicine, and are the old names for the Duke of Portland's Powder.

As to the late introduction of the medicine into this country, I have leave to mention the following particulars. We owe it to a friend of his grace the Duke of Portland, who brought the receipt with him from Switzerland, exactly copied from a domestic collection of approved receipts, which were his father's, who had travelled many years, and probably may have picked it up abroad: It was by this gentleman's persuasion that the Duke (who had been  
severely

severely treated by an hereditary Gout for several years) was induced to make trial of these powders, which have done him such remarkable service; and that the afflicted might not be deprived of the same means of relief which he had so happily experienced, his Grace ordered the said receipt to be printed, and copies of it to be delivered to all who should ask for it.

Notwithstanding the high esteem in which the medicine seems to be at present, it may not perhaps be difficult to foretel its fate; it will do good in many cases, for in many cases there is reason to believe it extremely proper (f); but an indiscriminate use

(f) This is well and wisely said. The account, however, of the effects of this powder by Dr. CULLEN, would terrify almost any man from its use, who is not previously well acquainted with the *usual* termination of the Gout. “ In every instance, saith the doctor, which  
 “ I have known of its exhibition for the length of time  
 “ prescribed, the persons, who had taken it, were indeed afterwards free from any inflammatory affection  
 “ of the joints; but they were affected with many  
 “ symptoms of the atonic Gout; and all, soon after  
 “ finishing their course of the medicine, have been attacked with apoplexy, asthma, or dropsy, which  
 “ proved



use of it, in all, will again do, what we have

“ proved fatal.” — What *all*! — In *every* instance! — Dreadful indeed! — Who would not for ever execrate PORTLAND’s powder? — But hath not the Professor, in some of the instances at least, ascribed those effects to the powder, which are but the too common consequences of the Gout, when left to itself, and when no such medicine hath been taken? — Would not this appear to be the case from the following observation, which I beg to repeat here, and leave for the doctor’s future consideration, — “ Multis in hydropicum morbum podagra concessit; quandoque vero in asthma; horum vero successio inevitabilis est.”

Apoplexies too, where PORTLAND’s powder is not administered, are common attendants on a recession of Gouty matter, “ Nec vero tantum in manus, pedes, omnes articulos tales feruntur fluxiones; verum etiam in cerebrum, &c.”

Before such a severe censure too had been passed upon the medicine, we should have been informed of the peculiar temperaments and habits of those, who thus fell martyrs to it. The Professor saith, “ in every instance which he had known of its exhibition for “ the length of time prescribed”, not, in every instance in which he had himself directed it. In that case, indeed, easy credit would have been given the Professor for its right application. But as this doth not evidently appear, may we not suppose, from its dreadful effects, that in some instances at least, it was improperly applied, and, in others, too long continued?

For

have seen a like abuse formerly did ; it will bring a good medicine into disrepute.

For the ancients, though they highly recommended such remedies in the cure of the Gout, yet they added, at the same time, very judicious cautions, from neglecting which, and giving medicines of this kind in every case without distinction, the greatest mischiefs may follow. "*Prodest pituitosis, biliosos autem lædit.*"

For my own part, I believe the medicine a good bitter or stomatic, and highly useful in certain circumstances of the Gout. Baron VAN SWIETEN is of the same opinion, affirming, "that such remedies are certainly of real service in restoring vigour and strength to the viscera," &c. adding, "that it cannot be denied, but that they have been of real benefit to many, though, perhaps, not to every gouty person". And Dr. SYDENHAM held those medicines in the highest estimation, "which by their gentle warmth and bitterness strengthen the stomach, and give more life and firmness to the mass of blood". — My great objection to it is, it's being too complex. And its uninterrupted use for such a length of time, without so much as the intervention of a little Magnesia, Rhubarb, or T. Sacra, whatever alteration in the habit may occur, seems an exceptionable circumstance also. But on the whole, I must think it not less injudicious, to extoll a medicine as at all times good, and under every circumstance of a disorder, than, to reprobate it, as always injurious, and good for nothing.

D.

## APPENDIX.

# A P P E N D I X.

## Nº III.

### A SIBERIAN PLANT recommended in the Gout.

**G**Ratified with the considerable share  
of attention which has been shewn  
to my own attempts, to discover something  
more efficacious in medical practice, than  
what

what hath hitherto been known, or at least made public; it is with the same view of exciting attention to similar attempts of others, that I here present the reader with the substance of an account which has lately appeared in a periodical publication of a Plant, “ which has long been used in Siberia for different diseases, but in Arthritical disorders with very great success, and also in cases of Rheumatism. It is the *rhododendron chrysanthemum*, nova species, belonging to the class, decandria, discovered by Professor Pallas, in his tour through Siberia. This Alpine shrub grows near the tops of the high mountains, named Sajanes, in the neighbourhood of the river Jenise, in Siberia, and delights in the skirts of the snow covered summits, above the region that produces trees.”

“ When the inhabitants of that country mean to give it in Arthritic or Rheumatic disorders, they take about two drachms of the dried shrub, stalk and leaves, with nine or ten ounces of boiling water, and putting them into an earthen pot, they lute on the head,



head, and place them in an oven during the night. This infusion, for it is not allowed to boil, the sick man drinks next morning for a dose. It occasions heat, together with a degree of intoxication, resembling the effects of spirituous liquors, and a singular kind of uneasy sensation in the parts affected, accompanied with a sort of vermiculation, which is likewise confined to the diseased parts. The patient is not permitted to quench the thirst, which this medicine occasions, as fluids, particularly cold water, produce vomiting, which lessens the power of the specific. In a few hours, however, all the disagreeable effects of the dose disappear, commonly with two or three stools. The patient then finds himself greatly relieved of his disorder, and hath seldom occasion to repeat the medicine above two or three times to compleat a cure."

"The inhabitants of Siberia call this shrub Chei, or Tea, from their drinking in common, a weak infusion of it, as we do the Chinese plant of that name. This practice

practice shews that the plant, used in small quantities, must be innocent."

" Professor Pallas sent, some time ago, some of this shrub dried, to Professor Koelpin, at Stetin, who has since given it with success in several cases, particularly in what he calls the *arthritica venerea*, with a *tophus arthriticus* on the carpus, and it produced a compleat cure."

" It must be remarked, that the dose which these hardy Siberians take, who are accustomed also to drink it as tea, would, in all probability, be too strong for our countrymen; however, it is a medicine, which we may certainly give (g) with safety, beginning with small doses."

(g) The public charities, with which this country abounds, afford sufficient opportunities of trying the virtues of the Siberian shrub. And, what one was naturally lead to expect, hath, it seems, lately taken place in the Infirmary at Edinburgh. Dr. HOME, in his *Chemical Experiments*, informs us, " He hath tried " the effects of this plant in the *acute Rheumatism*, in " several instances". But, I am sorry to say, not with the desired success. " In none of the Cases, " saith the doctor, do the symptoms of the *acute*

d

Rheumatism

“ Rheumatism appear to have been mitigated by this  
 “ medicine, though used in greater doses than in  
 “ Siberia”.—And, he concludes with saying, “ the  
 “ trials were fair, and that he may venture to pro-  
 “ nounce, that, in the cure of the *acute* Rheuma-  
 “ tism, it is a medicine much inferior in its effects  
 “ to several others”.—But, ought the matter to rest  
 here? It were to be wished at least, that farther  
 trials should be made in the *chronic* Gout or Rheu-  
 matism.

## APPENDIX.



## A P P E N D I X.

N<sup>o</sup> IV.Dr. PANTON's Account of the Treatment  
of the GOUT in the WEST INDIES.

**T**HE Rev. Mr. Panton, in a very obliging manner, put into my hands a Manuscript of his brother's, the late Dr. Panton, of Savannah la Mar, containing practical remarks on West India diseases. This experienced practitioner and judicious remarker of cases, peculiar to that climate, informs us, under the article,

G O U T,

" That it is a disorder very common

d 2

" in



“ in that part of the world, and being one  
 “ of those which we are taught to consider  
 “ beyond the reach of art, and in which,  
 “ by attempts to relieve, great evil may  
 “ be done, tho’ there is very little prospect  
 “ of advantage; few, indeed, have been  
 “ the attempts of medical persons to en-  
 “ quire properly into its effects, so as to  
 “ form some rational system of relief, tho’  
 “ many have been the empirical promises  
 “ of infallibly curing this disorder, by  
 “ means of secret applications, none of  
 “ which have been sufficiently successful  
 “ to support their reputation for any long  
 “ course of time; yet, even from these  
 “ attempts, ineffectual as they sometimes  
 “ have been, conclusions may be drawn  
 “ advantageous to practice.”

“ The nature of the internal remedies  
 “ which have been given in this complaint,  
 “ are kept profoundly secret, and little infor-  
 “ mation could be drawn from their effects,  
 “ either on the disease, or constitution in ge-  
 “ neral; but such external ones, as have been  
 “ used in this country, have consisted of *ca-*  
 “ *taplasms* of such vegetables as were suf-  
 “ ficiently

1800 sufficiently acrid to create a revulsion, by  
 200 blistering the part that was immediately  
 220 the seat of the disorder, and thus dis-  
 240 charging a quantity of fluid, which  
 260 was considered as a part of the peccant  
 280 matter, and these applications have in  
 300 one or two instances succeeded."

320 "Having observed, that the Gout was  
 340 always the effect of high health and  
 360 living, or of external injuries, such as  
 380 cold, wet, strains, too violent exercise,  
 400 &c. and that it was always preceded  
 420 by a sense of feverish heat, oppression,  
 440 flying pains, thirst and costiveness; this  
 460 shewed how far purging was necessary  
 480 to alleviate the approaching attack, and  
 500 for this purpose a large dose of *calomel*,  
 520 adapted to the strength and constitution  
 540 of the patient, was found the most  
 560 effectual, always giving some relief, and  
 580 evidently palliating the severity of the  
 600 fit, and sometimes even preventing it."

620 "The good effect of this method, in  
 640 the first instance, shewed some prospect  
 660 of preventing the returns of the fit alto-  
 680 gether, by giving the dose at stated  
 700 periods,

" periods, in the intermissions between  
 " the separate fits, and by following this  
 " practice of giving a large dose of calo-  
 " mel once a month or oftener, accor-  
 " ding to the constitution, &c. of the  
 " patient, the fits have been protracted to  
 " an uncommon length of time, and even  
 " their returns when they did come on,  
 " were rendered unusually mild and short,  
 " and had this effect on patients, who  
 " continued to live in their usual way, on  
 " high sauces, wines, &c."

" This, however, can be no general  
 " rule, for tho' these evacuations are so  
 " salutary when the patients are young,  
 " strong, naturally plethoric, and live high,  
 " it may not be equally effectual for the  
 " old, weak and tender. Yet it has suc-  
 " ceeded in patients, so widely different  
 " in constitution, that one, who in the fit  
 " was always seized with convulsions,  
 " tetanus and the several symptoms of  
 " irritated nerves, and was of so delicate a  
 " frame, as to be purged by only one grain  
 " of calomel, tho' about 40 years of age,  
 " was as effectually relieved as another who  
 " was



“ was strong, full of blood, of a most  
 “ robust apoplectic make, and who gene-  
 “ rally took ten, and sometimes twenty  
 “ grains of calomel for a dose; in both  
 “ cases giving effectual relief with respect  
 “ to the severity, duration, and frequency  
 “ of the fits.”

“ There can be no doubt, continues the  
 “ Doctor, but that temperance with exer-  
 “ cise, must in any constitution lessen the  
 “ violence of the disorder, if not effectually  
 “ cure it; but these are expedients that  
 “ we are rather to wish than expect will  
 “ be followed. This method, therefore,  
 “ of expelling the morbid matter, or the  
 “ effects of modern habits of living, seems  
 “ rational, and experience has proved it  
 “ advantageous.”

“ People of weak and irritable nerves,  
 “ are generally subject at the height of  
 “ the fits to severe convulsions, and attacks  
 “ of the disorder in the stomach, from the  
 “ severity of the pain, and in these cases  
 “ large doses of *musk* and *opium*, with warm  
 “ wine and rich broths, give certain relief,  
 “ after which the fit goes gradually off.”



From the effects of this disorder, in cases of weak nerves, it might perhaps seem proper to recommend a more plentiful and generous diet, than to such as are of more athletic and sanguineous habits, and perhaps the revulsion by acrid applications might be more adapted to the complaints of the former, than those of the latter, as they are less liable to inflammatory complaints: Tho' there is an instance of a gentleman, of a robust muscular frame, whose nerves were by no means very sensible, who being subject to this disorder, and that with great severity in his knees, &c. took a resolution of applying the *capsicum indicum*, or bell pepper, bruised by way of poultice, which blistered the part, brought on a great discharge, and gave effectual relief, since which he has had recourse to the same method with equal effect on every return of the complaint."

When the disorder is at the extremities, sweating the part always procures relief, the tension of the vessels being lessened

“ lessened by this discharge. For this  
 “ purpose cotton whipt very fine, and co-  
 “ vered with a granadello, or any other  
 “ smooth mild leaf, has been applied with  
 “ success. The cotton makes the appli-  
 “ cation sufficiently soft for the extreme  
 “ sensibility of the parts, and the leaf  
 “ preventing the evaporation of the fluid,  
 “ which is exhaled by insensible per-  
 “ spiration, it is consequently absorbed  
 “ by the cotton, and thus produces a na-  
 “ tural warm-bath on the part affected.  
 “ There is, however, no doubt but this  
 “ method might be much improved by  
 “ applying partial *vapor-baths*, which may  
 “ be endowed with a more powerful  
 “ degree of heat, than that which is na-  
 “ turally produced by the part, and thus  
 “ by encreasing the quantity of the eva-  
 “ cuation, render the relief more effec-  
 “ tual.”

“ In cases where the habit is plethoric  
 “ and robust, where the symptomatic fever  
 “ is smart, the oppression considerable, or  
 “ the head affected ; in short, where there  
 “ are certain signs of inflammation, there  
 “ is

“ is an absolute necessity for the use of the  
 “ lancet, which will almost instantly relieve  
 “ the extreme violence of the symptoms,  
 “ without any of those dangerous effects  
 “ which have been attributed to its use in  
 “ Gouty constitutions. Experience proves  
 “ its salutary effects, and, perhaps, those  
 “ which we are taught to dread are merely  
 “ the consequence of theory and imagi-  
 “ nation. In fact, there seems to be from  
 “ repeated experience, great reason to treat  
 “ all such acute disorders, as may attack  
 “ persons of Gouty habits, exactly in the  
 “ same manner, as if they had never  
 “ been subject to that disorder at all.  
 “ And it is remarkable, that those who by  
 “ the evacuations already mentioned, have  
 “ been relieved from their periodical fits  
 “ of the Gout, have been attacked with  
 “ intermittent, remittent, billious, and  
 “ other fevers, to which they were never  
 “ before subject, during the more frequent  
 “ attacks of the Gout, and have been  
 “ cured of their new diseases by the usual  
 “ methods.”

“ In  
 “ certain signs of inflammation, there  
 “ is



“ In cases of relaxed habits from old  
 “ age, repeated fits of the Gout, and the  
 “ heat of the climate, &c. the use of the  
 “ bark, and the cold bath, exercise and  
 “ bitters, in the intervals of fits, have been  
 “ found highly beneficial; particularly  
 “ the latter, as there are some instances of  
 “ persons greatly debilitated by this dis-  
 “ order, who have been restored to health,  
 “ and perfectly relieved by the use of  
 “ *tanfy-tea* alone, drank in the morning  
 “ fasting, and repeated occasionally thro’  
 “ the day. And tho’ this method has not  
 “ been equally effectual in all cases of this  
 “ kind, where it has been tried, yet it  
 “ has ever contributed in lax habits to  
 “ strengthen the stomach, restore the ap-  
 “ petite, and increase the digestive powers;  
 “ all which, in these cases, were greatly  
 “ weakened.”

“ It is, perhaps, impossible to lay down  
 “ any general rule for the method of  
 “ treatment in this disorder, as so much  
 “ depends upon the age, constitution, way  
 “ of living, and former diseases of the  
 “ patient; yet there is reason to think that  
 “ from



“ from a close attention to the symptoms  
 “ of the disease, and the particular cir-  
 “ cumstances, that attend the patient:  
 “ that by listening to the voice, and dili-  
 “ gently observing the operations of nature,  
 “ without suffering ourselves to be allured  
 “ by the syren voice of theory; we may  
 “ hope, at all times, to mitigate the seve-  
 “ rity of the disease, to protract the periods  
 “ of its return, to render it less destruc-  
 “ tive to the frame, much seldomer fatal,  
 “ and, perhaps, at length, assisted by the  
 “ willing concurrence of the patient, re-  
 “ move it entirely; an event which, how-  
 “ ever to be wished, can only be expected  
 “ from following the footsteps of nature,  
 “ and not from the magical chicanery of  
 “ empiricism.”

F I N I S.

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## GENERAL INDEX.

N refers to the Note, A to the Appendix.

### A.

- A** Bchurch, Henry, case of, 47.  
*ÆTIUS de Antidotis Podagricis* quoted, A. 34  
 and N. and A. 37 and N.  
 Allen, John, case of, 64, 71.  
 ALPINUS, relates that the Gout was no where so com-  
 mon as among the Ægyptians, notwithstanding they  
 lived on vegetables and low diet, 151 N.  
 Ancients, their practice in the Gout, A. 31.

### B.

- BACON, Lord, advice of, xi.—calls Time the author of  
 authors, and the parent of truth, 93 N.  
 BAKER, Dr. observations on the bad effects of giving  
 medicines in trifling doses, 127 N.  
 — Dr. Sir George, confesseth the practice of phy-  
 sic rarely admits of any perpetual precepts, and that  
 he will be apt to err, who will not occasionally de-  
 viate from authority, 177 N.

Bark,

Bark, The disputes among physicians, in the time of Sydenham, had well nigh dismissed that great specific in intermittents from the *Materia Medica*, 125. — Sydenham the first that ventured to give it in large doses, 127 N. — in what sense it may be called a specific, 155. — the first knowledge of it owing to the illiterate Indian, 168 N.

BLACKMORE, Sir Richard, his opinion in favour of the use of opium in Rheumatic Cases, 28 N.

Bleeding, Sir John Pringle's chief remedy in the Rheumatic fever, 34 N. and 41 N. — Effects to be apprehended from profuse bleeding, 40 N. — Dr. Sydenham averse to it, 42 N. — Dr. Cullen sensible of the danger of extending such evacuations too far, although an advocate for general and topical bleeding in the Acute Rheumatism, 53 N. — Dr. Cheyne observes, that excessive bleedings, &c. constantly bring on a hectic or dropsy, diseases far more difficult to cure than the original one, 85 N. — Occasional bleedings approved of by Dr. Mead, when the pain in the joints is extremely severe, 176 N.

Blistering, in what circumstances of the acute fever it is recommended by Dr. Langrish, 26 N. — Dr. Cullen's opinion on this subject, 27 N. — recommended by Dr. Stevenson as an effectual cure of the Gout, 179 N.

Blood. Dr. Tissot's remarks on the appearances of the blood in all inflammatory diseases, 32. — Dr. Huxham speaks of its buffy appearance with marks of greater attention than Sir John Pringle, 79 N. — Its fizy appearance can be no rule for the propriety of venesection, 80 N.



**BOERHAAVE**, Dr. his great character of Sydenham, 170.

**BRADY**, Dr. regrets that the cure of the Rheumatism cannot be accomplished without the loss of a large quantity of blood, 42 N.

**BROCKLESBY**, Dr. observations on Dr. Dover's powder, 21 N.—opinion of the efficacy of large quantities of nitre in the Rheumatic fever, 38 N.—demonstrates the inefficacy of giving nitre in the common method, 77 N.—uninfluenced by the authority of Sir John Pringle, his predecessor in the army, gave gradually from half an ounce to six drachms of Tinct. Guaic. Vol. in the Cold Rheumatism, 106 N.—frequently done the same out of the hospitals, ib.

**Bundy**, Richard, case of, 212.

**Burton**, Mrs. case of, 190.

C.

**CADOGAN**, Dr. restricts the valetudinarian unmercifully, by vague observations and unwarranted assertions of the necessity, not of temperance, but of mere abstinence from particular kinds of food, 149 N.

**CÆLIUS AURELIANUS** *de Morbis Chronicis* quoted, A. 33.

**Camphire**, whether hot or cold, 91 — Dr. White's remarks on camphire applied to gum guaiacum, A. 25 N.

**Cases**, fidelity in the narration of, indispensably necessary, 31.

**CÆLUS**, his practice in the Rheumatic fever varies according to the circumstances of its being attended with a tumour or otherwise, 15 N.—advises the parts, affected



affected in the Gout, to be exposed freely to the cold, 167 N.

CHEYNE, Dr. affirms opium to be the sovereign remedy in the cholic, stone, Gout, Rheumatism, and all vehement pains, 29 N.—asserts that inflammatory Rheumatisms have all the symptoms of the Gout, 84 N.—and by violent evacuations may be translated upon the noble organs, ib.—observes that excessive bleedings, &c. constantly bring a hectic or dropsy, diseases far more difficult to cure than the original one, 85 N.—recommends gentle vomits as not only proper but necessary, as they do more effectually than any other thing expel disorders from the habit, and throw the Gout on the extremities, 193 N.

Clare, William, case of, 141.

CLEPHANE, Dr. his enquiry into the origin of the Gout (Portland's) powder, A. 28.—speaks of it well and wisely, A. 43 N.

CLERK, Dr. one of his patients found gum guaiac. steeped in brandy, of more use than any other remedy; took it sparingly, owing to some wrong information, 196 N.—lays great stress on the appearances of the urine, 220 N.—certain appearances of it diagnostic of the Gout, ib.

Cold Bath, great advantages of the, in gouty and rheumatic cases, 143, 223 N. & passim.

Common Sense, the best of physic, 152 N.

CULLEN, Dr. his opinion of blistering, 27 N.—asserts opium to be hurtful in every stage of the Rheumatism, except where directed to procure sweat, 29 N.—an advocate for general and topical bleedings in the acute Rheumatism, yet sensible of the danger of extending such evacuations too far, 53 N.—asserts that

that the Gout may be entirely prevented by constant bodily exercise and low diet, 115 N. and 150 N.—strictures on this opinion, 115 N.—seemingly inconsistent in his observations on this subject, 118 N.—supposes the Gout to be generally hereditary, and very often to depend on original conformation, 151 N.—divides the irregular Gout into the atonic, the retrocedent, and the misplaced, 157 N.—reprobates the Duke of Portland's powder, but injudiciously, and unjustly, A. 43 N.

## D.

Diaphoretic Medicines, discordant opinions of Sir John Pringle and Dr. Brocklesby, with regard to their efficacy in the rheumatic fever, 38 N.

Diet, observations on, in gouty cases, 149 N.—no vegetable diet can alter the original structure and conformation of the body, 151 N.—low diet did not prevent the Gout from being common among the Ægyptians, 151 N.—memorable words of Sir William Temple on temperance, 152 N.

DOVER, Dr. observations on his powder, 21 N.—composition of, 23 N.—thinks it wrong to keep the parts in the Gout warm, 167 N.

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Fenwick, Miss, case of, 203.

Fevers, have their respective differences, rise and progress, declination and crisis, 11.

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Flannel, its supposed efficacy in the Gout very questionable, 166.

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Fox, Richard, case of, 134.

Fraley, Mr. case of, 192.

FRAN-



FRANCISCUS DE PEDEMONTIUM *de Aegritud. Junctur-*  
*arum* quoted, A. 39 N.

Freeman, Mrs. case of, 217.

FREIND, Dr. his opinion of vesicatories in acute fevers;  
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the tinctura guaiacina volatilis, 114 N.

## G.

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guaiac. volatilis, 90 N.—his anecdote of Lewis XIV.  
and Sir Robert Talbor, 128 N.

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guaiacina volatilis, 98.

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Gout, the causes to which Dr. Hardy attributes its pre-  
valence, 4 N.—Dr. Riollay's opinion on this subject,  
ib.—Sydenham of opinion that a specific for it may  
be found out in time, 120.—no kind of diet proper  
in all cases of the Gout, 149 N.—Dr. Cullen supposes  
the Gout to be generally hereditary, and very often  
to depend on original conformation, 151 N.—As  
well as the Rheumatism it hath its variations and cri-  
tical seasons, 154.—Distinctions in the Gout by the  
Author and other writers, 157 and N.—the supposed  
efficacy of flannel in this disease very questionable, 166.  
—Dr. Stevenson recommends blistering as an effec-  
tual cure of it, 179 N.—symptomatical Gouts often  
mistaken for other distempers, 183 N.—the Gout,  
according to Dr. Cheyne, the most effectually ex-  
pelled on the extremities, by the use of gentle vomits,  
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Gout Powders. See *Ancients, Portland's Powder, Sydenham*, and *Van Swieten*.

Gouty Matter, in what sense this expression is to be understood, viii.

Gravitation, Sir Isaac Newton's caution respecting the use of this word, ib.

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## H.

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M.

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O.

Offending Matter, in what sense this expression is to be understood, viii.

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P.

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PANTON, Dr. his account of the treatment of the Gout in the West Indies, A 51.

Parks, Mrs. case of, 220.

— Mr. case of, 223.

Patience, a medicine (the proverb writes it) proper only for a mad dog, 166.

Phyic, by what method it first began to be formed into a science, xi.

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Q.

QUINCY, Dr. his account of camphire, 91.—his observation on the gouty matter when hanging about the nerves and fibres in general, 183 N.—his reasons why Rheumatisms, &c. are frequently forerunners of the Gout in the female sex, 195 N.

—— Mary, case of, 205.

R.

Rheumatism (Acute) causes of its prevalence in Great Britain, 9.—its indicative circumstances to be attended to, 16.

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Rheumatic fevers, commonly affords sufficient leisure to make cool observations on its progress, &c. 15.

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Taylor, Mr. Samuel, case of, 110.

TEMPLE,



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Wilton, Mr. case of, 215.

Wisdom of Providence, 168.

Wright, Mary, case of, 6.

—— Mr. Thomas, case of, 172.

F I N I S.



E R R A T A.

Page 125. line 6. for *approbrium*, read *opprobrium*.

A. Page 34. line 3. for *podogricis*, read *podagricis*.



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